

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Sroor's re-election gives government breathing space

By Hamdan Al Hajj
Special to The Star

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein opened the fourth and final ordinary session of the 12th Parliament last Tuesday with a Speech from the Throne. King Hussein outlined the government's agenda. (See page 3)

After the King's speech, the deputies elected their speaker, Sa'ad Hayel Al Sroor for the third consecutive time.

His re-election was seen by observers as a "vote of confidence" in the Prime Minister, Abdel Karim Kabariti and his government.

Mr. Kabariti had earlier told the IAF deputy Abdullah Al Akaleh that "we shall stand for the current speaker of the House Sa'ad Hayel Al Sroor."

But the number of votes Sroor got, 46, was less than expected. His opposition contender IAF deputy Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani received, more than expected, 29 votes.

It is argued that Al Kilani could have received more votes if the opposition had planned their actions earlier and not put up a candidate at the last minute.

However, and in spite of last minute alliances, Sroor won on a flying ticket. It is argued by some that the outcome of the elections went completely against the opposition as they failed to get the posts of the first or second deputy speakers, nor of their two assistants. It would be unfair to say that they



Kabariti shakes hands with Sroor upon his re-election as speaker of the Lower House

are isolated, but the Lower House secretariat would appear to be in pro-government hands. Observers believe this will even escalate the already tense relations between the government and the opposition deputies.

However, some say that this would give the opposition the excuse to maintain their hard-

line stance vis-a-vis the government and deliberately create obstacles in front of its economic laws. The government wants the Lower House to sift through draft laws on companies, securities, customs, protection of national industry, investment management over state's properties, competitiveness, prohibiting monopoly and

the protection of state funds. The government wants the House to endorse the companies law without discussion for the present time.

On the other hand, the King and government have not discussed the new elections law, which means that the House won't tackle this issue during this session.

Observers expect that a temporary election law would be issued. However, there is a strong possibility that the coming elections would run on the basis of the previous law which is rejected by most deputies.

The one-man, one-vote system is a controversial issue in the country, and considered by many politicians as a weak point in Jordanian democracy. It is not only the opposition deputies and parties who demand a new electoral law, but also leading figures like Mr. Abdel Raouf Al Rawbadeh, a former deputy prime minister.

The 23-opposition deputy bloc has long been fighting to endorse such a change in the law but failed.

Others predict that the current House might be extended until the government finalizes a new election law.

But this session is expected to be a stormy one. The opposition bloc in the House is prepared to use arm twisting tactics with the government. The bread and fodder crisis, which sparked riots in the south of the country last August, will take the backshot of the opposition attacks. The opposition deputies intend to present in this session a file of corruption cases.

"There is no positive noticeable progress from the government side," said Hamzah Mansour, the spokesman of the opposition bloc in the Lower House. The opposition which

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Electricity workers on strike till demands are met

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

THE WORKERS of the Jordan Electric Power Co., (JEPC) are up in arms over the company's failure to meet their demand. About 2000 of its workers are on strike.

The Trade Union of Electrical Workers (TUEW) presented a number of demands on behalf of the striking workers early this month, and have asked the management to respect their demands. They include improving work conditions, and the implementation of privileges that were already agreed upon. Because of the risk involved, the workers are also demanding additional allowances.

Yesterday, Wednesday, 7:00 am was the deadline for the convening of the strike. But, by then, the company had not sent any positive signals to the workers.

Efforts failed to convince the workers to drop their strike action. Mediators of the Ministry of Labor and the General Federation of the Trade Unions (GFTU) held extensive talks to find a common basis between the workers and the management. But these also failed, and the workers are now left with no option but to go on strike.

Negotiations continued till yesterday afternoon, but generated little progress. The talks were attended by the Minister of Labor, Abdel Hafiz Shakhaneh, JEPC representatives, and other unionists.

Workers argued that it was their right to strike as guaranteed by article 135 of the Labour Law. However, they



stressed that they are using this right to press for their just demands.

Today, Thursday, Mr. Shakhaneh will be heading a reconciliation meeting between the JEPC board members and the workers' representatives.

"We are a third party between the workers and the employers. Our duty is to find a mutual understanding between the both," Shakhaneh told The Star. The minister, who from the outset considered the strike illegal and blamed the unions, sounded optimistic about reaching an agreement, today Thursday.

The legality of the strike was also questioned by the GFTU which appealed to the workers to end the strike. Trade union officials said it would do more harm than good.

"We are supporting the rights of the workers, but urging them to follow the law and begin negotiations through the reconciliation committee of the Ministry of Labor. This is the only way to reach a fair agreement," said Mazen Al Maaita, the general secretary of the GFTU, which is an umbrella organization of 17 unions. The TUEW is the strongest out of these and only one of two unions whom its administrative council is elected by general assembly. The other council and their presidents are assigned by the Ministry of Labor.

The TUEW insisted on holding the strike on its scheduled time. The union asked the JEPC workers in all the com-

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Videotape shows 2 Israeli policemen beating Palestinians

By Rebecca Trounson

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Two Israeli border police were arrested Tuesday after Israeli television aired an amateur videotape showing them beating and kicking six Palestinian workers.

The Oct. 10 incident—captured in graphic footage that showed one officer kicking a worker in the head and his colleague sitting and bouncing on the bent head of a second detainee sitting cross-legged on the ground—created an uproar Tuesday after its broadcast on Israel's Channel 1.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the officers' behavior, saying: "I am not prepared to accept it. I will not tolerate it, and people who behave like that are not fit to be in our security forces."

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, saying the incident was "shameful," called on Israel to investigate it and mete out appropriate punishment.

Meanwhile, the Justice Ministry announced Tuesday it was investigating another incident in which three border police beat eight Palestinians who were stopped last weekend trying to cross into Israel near the West Bank town of Kalqilya. Several of the men were hospitalized, a ministry official said.

The police on the videotape—identified as David Ben Abu, 20, and Tzahi Shmaya, 19—were to be charged with aggravated assault and abuse of authority, Israel Radio reported.

They apparently were unaware their actions near Ar Ram checkpoint north of Jerusalem were being recorded by a Palestinian civilian. A passerby who stopped to ask questions during the beatings was struck in the face, the tape shows.

The six unidentified Palestinians apparently were caught trying to cross into Israel without required work permits. In recent months, Israel's frequent closures of the border have created economic hardship in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with many Palesti-



● Soldiers drag off a Palestinian protester near Efrat yesterday, as some two dozen Palestinians tried to prevent bulldozers from excavating an expansion of the settlement. Member of the Palestinians Legislative Council, Bishara Daoud wrestled with police officers during the incident on the Wad Al Rahal hilltop between Efrat and the village of Arats. No injuries were reported in this scuffle.

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Palestinians decry Israeli decision to expand Jewish settlement in West Bank

By Rebecca Trounson
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

JERUSALEM—The Israeli government has approved a 1200-unit project in the heart of the West Bank, its third major effort to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories within the past month.

The building planned for the community of Emmanuel was announced this week by settlement leaders. It is the first new construction approved by the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a settlement well beyond Israel's pre-1967 border. And it is all but certain to create further obstacles to the troubled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The project—which will include a country club, school and senior citizens center—was welcomed by Emmanuel officials Tuesday but greeted with dismay by Palestinians and peace activists, who view it as the clearest sign yet that Netanyahu will move forward with his stated intention to

increase West Bank settlement. "If the principle of land for peace is the reference point of the peace process, then what kind of peace can be achieved as settlements continue to encroach on the remaining Palestinian lands?" the East Jerusalem daily Al Quds asked in an editorial Tuesday. "What is left on which to negotiate?"

Mossi Raz, who heads Israel's Peace Now movement, also condemned the plan as likely to impede any progress toward peace.

An ultra-Orthodox community of 3000 to 4000 residents. Emmanuel sits near the Palestinian-controlled city of Nablus, deep inside the territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East War.

Under the interim peace agreement between the Palestinians and the previous Israeli government, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority now controls six of the seven major population centers in the West Bank. The seventh, Hebron, remains under Israeli occupation, and Israeli and Palestinian

negotiators appeared no closer than ever Tuesday to reaching an accord on the overdue Israeli pullout from the town.

Although most of the West Bank area is still in Israeli hands, Palestinians hope this Israeli government will one day agree to what was a tacit understanding with the previous administration—that the territory ultimately will form the basis of a Palestinian "entity," and perhaps an independent state.

But the Netanyahu government in August lifted a four-year freeze on settlement activity. Since then, it has approved the sale of 3000 already built apartments in West Bank communities and construction of 1800 new units linking the settlements of Kiryat Sefer, Nablus and Matityahu, north of Jerusalem.

The Emmanuel project was approved quietly by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordecai, Shmuel Lanza, Emmanuel's mayor, said construction of 500 units will begin in January.

Miss World pageant turns ugly amid protests in India

By Barry Bearak
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

BANGALORE, India—India's "garden city" may never have been an ideal spot for the Miss World pageant, what with its water shortages, power failures and the air quality of a bus terminal. But not even the most dour of pessimists expected mayhem of this sort, with the contest being assailed as a merchandising device for the decadent cultural imperialism of the West.

Fanatical protesters threatened to immolate themselves in the streets—and one has already done so. Commendos smeared cow dung in public places. And militant farmers have promised to burn down the cricket

stadium, the very arena where the queen is to be crowned as 2.5 billion people watch on global television.

Dozens of groups have come out against the Nov. 23 extravaganza. Beauty contests make for strange bedfellows, and this one has brought together modern feminists and turn-back-the-clock Hindu nationalists, left-wing students and right-wing politicians. Already, the swimsuit competition has been chased out of the country to the more hospitable Seychelles islands.

"Today it's Miss World: tomorrow it's electrolysis, liposuction, artificial eyes and face-lifting," said Pramila Nesargi, a right-wing state legislator.

M.D. Nanjundaswamy, the

socialist leader of the farmers group, said: "The degeneracy of the West needs to be corrected, not exported."

Defenders of the pageant—and they enjoy the sympathy of most Indians—find it hard to believe an event so trivial has provoked such a tumult. What about India's poverty? What about illiteracy? What about official corruption?

But to many, the Miss World contest is symbolic of something far more substantial, for what was once a stream of Western influences has recently become a gush. Embraced by some, deplored by others, change is penetrating India's soul. East is East and West is West, but now the twain have met.

Two great thresholds have been crossed in the '90s, one in the marketplace and the other on the television.

Five years ago, this nation shrugged off the last vestiges of



Nehru-era socialism and enacted reforms that welcomed the global economy. Executives of multinationals rushed to India like the British sahibs.

How could they resist? The potential of this market would speed the heartbeat of any merchant. One in every six people on Earth lives in India, and while 730 million of them

have little in their pockets, an estimated middle class of 200 million has rupees to spare for consumer goods.

Television ads tell them what to buy. In 1992, Star TV, owned by unblinking impresario Rupert Murdoch, began to offer its many channels of attractions. Programs include the antic showmanship of pro wrestling,

the gyrating flesh of music videos and the moral teachings of the soap opera "Santia Barbara."

As in America, some of this has proven irresistible. "Star TV has been like Coca-Cola; it's in every village," said H.S. Balram, the Bangalore editor of the Times of India.

"What shocked India was the explicit sex. Indians don't openly discuss sex. We do everything, but in our homes. Initially, we felt we couldn't watch Star TV with the whole family. But as time passed, we've gotten into it."

Yet even the accepting are occasionally uneasy about where all this may lead. Short skirts, dating, premarital sex, spouse-swapping. Some things are hard to reconcile in a society where most brides still bring a dowry into an arranged marriage. How much can India change while preserving its traditions?

Among current sentiments is

the suspicion that India has become a dumping ground for the West's rejects, and the Miss World pageant surely fits the bill. In 1990, after 39 years in London, declining interest forced the contest into a nomadic existence. It has since wandered to Atlanta and Sun City, South Africa's answer to Las Vegas—before making its current stop in Bangalore, a south India metropolis of 6 million with a booming computer industry.

Along the way during this globe trot, Miss World founders Eric and Julia Morley discovered that what had become passe in the prosperous West was now en vogue in much of the Third World, where beauty competition is not so burdened by political correctness.

Here in India, the pageant's main financial backer is Amitabh Bachchan, the actor known as the Big B. Famous for playing the role of the

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Iraqi painters add an extra touch to Jordanian plastic art

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

CAN WE say that since Amman is now home to no less than 15 art galleries that the artistic movement is thriving? Or that the great number of art exhibitions that has been increasing since 1990 is reflective of a nation that deems art crucial to its existence? Well, the issue is still a subject of debate among artists, directors of galleries and critics alike.



One would say that setting up art galleries will benefit much our painters and sculptors whose number reach 200. They will, in this respect, be able to find more than one space to show their work to the public. Journalists and art critics will flock to galleries to give their views and write at length about the experience of our artists. But what is happening is exactly the opposite.

The number of people who attend an exhibition depends most of the time on the artist himself and people's relationship to him," Nehaya Khreino, the director of Alia Art Gallery told *The Star*. She said the majority of visitors are either the artist's friends or relatives.

According to Khreino, some show interest in art only so that they can brag about it in front of friends and visitors. "They do not care about the value of a painting in as much as they want to add it to the decoration of their houses," she said.

The fact that the number of Jordanian plastic artists is big might lead us to think that it is imperative to have all those galleries in Amman. Yet not all the Jordanian artists are well taken care of either in regard to the space they are given for their work or by critics who are supposed to open debates on such works.

Since the eruption of the Gulf crisis in 1990 and the emigration of many Iraqi artists to this country, Jordanian artists found that their position might be negatively influenced. Affected by the siege imposed on their country, major and minor Iraqi artistic figures came to exhibit their works in Amman. In the past two years a large num-

ber of Iraqi exhibitions have taken place in the galleries of Amman and most of the exhibitors were celebrated by Jordanian newspapers.

Mr Kifah Al Habib, an Iraqi art critic, said that the "invasion" of Iraqi plastic artists of the Jordanian art scene is momentary and it will end with the lifting of the siege on Iraq. He added that the main goal of most of those Iraqis who exhibit intensively in Amman is to gain money that would mitigate the worsening situation they are living in.

"The Jordanian plastic art market has been affected because art lovers are buying more works by famous Iraqi artists leaving almost nothing for Jordanians," said Khirah Hirzallah, a Jordanian artist and a member of the Plastic Art Association (PAA).

He went on to say that the plastic art movement in Jordan lacks professionalism. Jordanian artists earn money from other jobs.

The PAA according to its chairman Mr Khalid Khreino, is not able to support its members financially. "Its work is mainly to hold seminars and meetings which discuss the latest art theories," he added.

Even those who are customary buyers of the works "complain that their houses are filled with paintings and they can buy no more," commented Khreino.

On the other hand, the so called "Iraqi phenomenon" in Jordan is said to have a positive impact on local artists. Jordanian and Iraqi artists have built relationships which means they can exchange views on art on a regular basis. Al Habib believes

that the presence of Iraqi art here in Jordan has created a competition where Jordanians are required to prove themselves.

"One of the positives of having Arab artists, including Iraqis, is the diversity of the exhibited works," said Ali Maher, the director of Darat Al Funun. He added that the artistic movement in Jordan was moving at a steady pace before Iraqis came, who helped push it forward.

But the question remains whether art is integrated into the lives of Jordanian people. If not, will dealing with art be limited to the elite? Khreino said that a great number of people like to watch and buy expressive works that depict natural objects. Abstract art, she added, is not demanded except by a minority.

Al Habib said that some artists who found that their abstract paintings are not selling are trying to paint subjects which are desirable by the general public.

The function of art in life is still unclear to many people here in Jordan. They think that to be able to appreciate art it should be representative of their surrounding environment or deal with issues that bear directly on their lives.

"French people who come to Jordan and see exhibitions of abstract work think they are done by westerners," said Denis Toupan, the director of the French Cultural Cen-



ter. Most of the paintings here are intellectualized and they stress the theme of globalization, he added. Toupan believes that the modern artist is not obliged to make his painting understandable.

Toupan points to the fact that there is no professional art institute in Jordan which graduates specialists.

A better future is likely awaiting Jordanian artists. Their benefit from the Iraqi experience and the competition that is presently taking place will leave a good impact on their performance. "I think that after the Iraqi agony is eased, the negative side of Iraqi artists on their Jordanian counterparts will be removed; only the positive side will remain," Al Habib pointed out.

Electricity workers on strike till demands are met

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pany's branches around the Kingdom not to clock in for work and to assemble in front of the JEPIC headquarters in Amman and Zarqa, where the strike took place.

"We will not stop the strike

until the company agrees to our demands. We will escalate if there is no response," said Mr Khalifeh Al Maaita, the head of the TUEW.

Mr Khalifeh Al Maaita rejected the claim that the strike is illegal. "The law gives

us the right to strike for our professional demands."

JEPIC officials told *The Star* that the unions are to blame for exploiting the situation, claiming that workers are satisfied. The employers maintain that they involved in these kinds of jobs and that is why they are taking good care of the workers.

During the negotiations between representatives of the workers, the JEPIC and the Ministry of Labor on Wednesday, the company refused to compromise, even when the GFTU convinced workers to stop their strike for 48 hours. But JEPIC representatives insisted on a one-week "cooling-off" period to discuss the demands of the workers. This was rejected by unionists.

"The company does not want to sit with us, it is only threatening us if we do not stop the strike," said Ahmad Hussein, secretary of the TUEW's Amman branch. He said that enormous pressure was made by the Governor of Amman and the Ministry of Labor to kill the strike. "They are threatening us with force."

He added that the federation is not serious about solving the problem, and is in favor of the management. "We are determined to secure our rights. However, up till now the management and workers are sticking to their positions," said Khalifeh Maaita.

Institute of Diplomacy hosts IRCICA activities

AMMAN (Star)—The Institute of Diplomacy is hosting next week the 13th Session of the meeting of the Governing Board of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) in Istanbul. This will be held in Amman on Saturday 23 November 1996 under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan. The session will be held in Jordan for the first time.

His Royal Highness will deliver the keynote speech making the start of the session. Also speaking will be Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Bin Nayef, member of the governing Board, Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, director general of IRCICA, Dr Omar Jah, chairman of the Governing Board and Mr Fayed Mohammed Al-Ka'ani, director of Arab affairs, Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) who will attend instead of the Secretary General of the OIC. The president of the Institute of Diplomacy Dr Mazen Armouti will

give a welcoming speech.

An exhibition of Islamic calligraphy will be held 23 November under the patronage of HRH Prince Hassan at the Forte Grand Hotel. The exhibition is organized by the Institute of Diplomacy, the OIC, the IRCICA and the Jordan National Gallery.

On the schedule there will be a lecture on Turkish-Arab relations at the Institute of Diplomacy. The lecture, titled "Turkish-Arab relations: Present Status & Future Prospects" will be delivered by the General-Director of the IRCICA professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

On the occasion of His Majesty's King Hussein birthday and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, a photography exhibition by the Arab-American photographer Lily Bandak is opening this Sunday. The exhibition, to be held at the Jordan Construction and Contractors Association, is featuring images of the Arab World.

People & Politics

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world wide web that covers daily news of the peace process. The editor failed to note that *The Star* is a weekly newspaper that does not cover news.

To set the record straight, *The Star* was the first English-language weekly in the Middle East to launch an electronic edition back in November 1995. It has never linked its site to any other publication, whether Arab or non-Arab and our electronic edition is the same as our print one. As to specializing in promoting normalization with Israel, *The Star* editorials remain critical of Israeli policies, sceptical of its intentions towards the Palestinians, doubtful of the fertility of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and its ability to bear any of the promised economic fruits. Since its inception in 1990, *The Star* continued to abide by its editorial line as an independent and responsible publication speaking its mind, and that of many Jordanians, on many issues, including normalization. It remains an active forum for representatives of all shades of the political spectrum, not least of which the Jordanian opposition and the anti-normalization front.

In the chaos that has taken over the Arab media scene in recent years, it is not surprising to see opportunists being responsible for poor quality journalism which has become the norm rather than the exception. We would have liked *Al Quds Al Arabi* to maintain an ethical stand of objectivity, integrity and self-respect. But we were disappointed.

Shbeilat's guessing game

Jordanians love mysteries and they like to keep guessing. The guessing game now involves President of the Engineers Association Lait Shbeilat, who was recently pardoned by the King and released from prison. It was the second time that the King intervened to let Mr Shbeilat out of the can. The first time that happened, Mr Shbeilat was facing the gallows. He announced that he was quitting politics—he was a deputy for Amman—but few months later became active again, turning into a fierce critic of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

He was arrested and put on trial for slandering the Royal Family and sentenced to three years in prison. From his cell he fought for and won the presidency of the Engineers Association. Now that he is a free man people are wondering if Mr Shbeilat will make a fresh foray into the political arena. While legal experts debate his eligibility to run for public office, the bearded independent Islamist is not making his intentions known. For a man who never stopped talking, his unusual silence is keeping us all guessing.

US exempts Palestinian goods from duty

WASHINGTON (Star)—President Bill Clinton has signed a proclamation to provide duty-free treatment to products of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and qualifying industrial zones. Under the proclamation, announced last week, the US president decided to exempt any article of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone from duty.

He decided that articles of Israel may be treated as though they were articles directly shipped from Israel for the purposes of the US-Israel Free Trade Agreement even if shipped to the United States from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone.

The US president also decided that the cost or value of materials produced in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the cost or value of materials produced in Israel and the direct costs of processing operations performed in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the direct costs of processing operations performed in Israel.

The US president announced that the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) should be modified to provide duty-free entry to qualifying articles that are the product of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone.

Sroor's re-election gives government

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boycotted the last extraordinary session during the bread and fodder debate, decided to make a comeback and attend this ordinary session.

The resignation of deputy Nazeeh Ammarin is expected to be discussed this Wednesday. If the house approves his resignation then this would be a major embarrassment for the government and a potential loss of support in the Karak constituency. Observers say that the Prime Minister has still a few days to mull over his next move. Ammarin says he wants a direct apology but this is unlikely to happen. However the Prime Minister would likely be advised to think the situation carefully and not to burn any of his bridges.

US government announces 1988 immigrant visa lottery programme

THE US Government announced this week the annual diversity immigrant visa lottery program (DV-98) under which a specific number of permanent resident visas will be awarded in 1998 to eligible persons from areas of the world that have low immigration rates to the United States. The visas awarded to winners in the lottery will be apportioned among six geographic regions in the world. Applications will be chosen at random by computer and winners only will be notified. The notification will be sent by mail during the summer 1997 to the address listed on their entry.

After being notified, winners will be eligible to apply for immigrant visas at the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. The usual criteria for granting immigrant visas will apply.

For more detailed information on how to apply, instruction sheets on this program will be distributed at the Front Gate of the US Embassy in Amman beginning November 24, 1996, from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm (Note: The Embassy will be closed on 28 November in observance of Thanksgiving Day).

Please do not call the American Embassy in Amman regarding the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program. Telephone inquiries about the program will not be taken and applications sent to the Embassy will be destroyed.

CLASSIFIEDS

Social survey

● The University of Bologna in Italy is looking for every foreign students (non-Italian) who graduated in Bologna from 1945. An important social research has been started and a questionnaire will be sent to the graduates contacted. All foreign graduates are kindly asked to write their current address to: (Friends or relatives who know useful information are asked to write to: Osservatorio Statistico, Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche "P. Fortunati", Università di Bologna, via Belle Arti 41, 40126 Bologna BO, ITALIA

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Miss World pageant turns ugly

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The major distinction, they insist, is that Miss World's motto is "beauty with a purpose," the purpose being charity. About 10 percent of the profit—an estimated \$1 million—will go to the Spastics Society of Karnataka (Bangalore's home state).

Bachchan thought this charitable gesture would be enough to subdue any likely opposition—and this may well have been so. But when the sniping began, Karnataka's chief minister, J.H. Patel, inadvertently poured gas on the fire, defending the contest with the words: "If women want to show themselves in the nude, let them (and) let those who want to see, see."

The statement predictably provoked the ire of feminists, some of whom have held their noses long enough to join fundamentalists at the protest rallies that have spread across the country in anticipation of the event.

For two months, the controversy has been a staple on India's front pages, delighting several gadflies and small-time politicians whose threats and invective are usually not taken so seriously. "The fury of the mob cannot be controlled," said the newly important conservative legislator Nesargi in her dramatic way.

But could it really happen—blood on the ramp where Miss World takes her triumphant walk? Or is righteous indignation, like beauty, only skin deep?

To be confident of a peaceful beauty contest, Bangalore's police think an army of 12,500 officers and constables will be required, many of them in battle gear. For added protection, some preliminary events will be held on the outskirts of the city. One new venue is a high-security air force base.

The necessity for these precautions is unclear. Until now, anti-pageant commando raids have been farces. An office was ransacked by men unaware that Miss World headquarters had moved away weeks before. Cow dung was smeared in a Godrej appliance store, but it is another company, Godrej Soaps, that is a contest sponsor. A small bomb lobbed at stadium generators missed by 15 yards and exploded harmlessly.

Nesargi is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has had political success of late as a guardian of Hindu traditions.

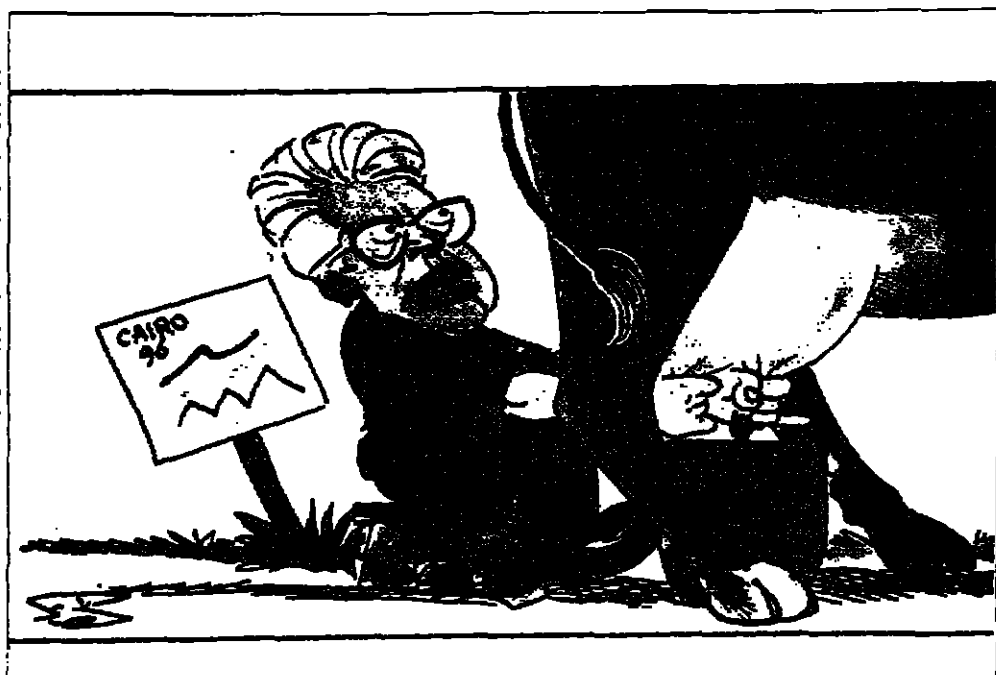
By her understanding of Hinduism, a woman's beauty must be natural, not affected. For example, the three spectacular diamond rings on her fingers—"taken from Mother Earth"—while cosmetics are not. "The West wants all women to look alike, and the only way to do this is with makeup."

Nanjundaswamy, although an ally in this cause, despises Nesargi and her BJP allies because "their version of Hinduism is narrow and bigoted." A retired law professor, he has started an organization of small farmers, a group rightly afraid that a "green wave" of big agricultural interests may force them from their land.

Nanjundaswamy's opposition is more ideological than Nesargi's. "Miss World is another imposition by global capitalists," he said.

"The West wants an international monoculture so everyone will buy its products. Miss World is here to sell a certain Western look that all women are supposed to treasure. But we have nothing to learn from the West. The West must learn from us."

Madhu Bhushan, a feminist, agrees with some of the professor's politics, but she also thinks he has gone "a little berserk." Her goal is Liberation. "Our goal is not to keep the West out of India; that's impossible," she said. "But we have to find some way to counter all of this merchandising."



Our Say...

Deputies shouldn't become ministers

IN HIS Speech from the Throne with which he opened the last session of the 12th Jordanian Parliament Tuesday, His Majesty King Hussein presented a comprehensive update of where Jordan stands today and what its priorities are.

Topping these are Jordan's commitment to the democratic way of life and to the course of peace, its determination to reform its economic laws with the aim of improving people's lives and its support of the Palestinian people and their rights on their national soil.

Among the issues that the King pledged to review is the relationship between the three branches of government stressing that the separation of powers is embodied in the constitution. In particular the King said the review will particularly focus on the relationship between the executive and the legislative.

The King's statements underline the controversy that has emerged in recent years regarding the role of deputies and their eagerness to leave the Lower House to become government ministers.

The current government comprises 21 deputies including the Prime Minister. Theoretically speaking, this government is the most representative of the Jordanian people.

But in recent years, getting elected to the Lower House became the shortest route to becoming a government minister. Designated prime ministers opted to recruit deputies into their cabinets as the most assured way of winning a vote of confidence. As a result, an intensive bargaining process evolved that redefined the agenda of deputies. That overlapping between the two branches of government, in our view, has not helped the democratic process in Jordan.

Today the electorate are frustrated with their representatives, especially those who departed from their election promises and leaped into the warmth of ministerial seats.

On the other hand, the lure of a cabinet seat has altered the nature of parliamentary opposition. In some cases opposition of the government rested not on public policy differences, but on personal whims and interests.

The end result is that neither the government nor the Lower House have had time to execute their duties and carry out their responsibilities.

Since prime ministers are appointed by the King, who is head of all branches of government, it would make sense that the people's representatives be banned from joining the government, unless they resign their posts. Jordan already tops the list in the frequency of government reshuffles in this region. For a developing country with a tight agenda this is proving wasteful and harmful. Government machinery cannot cope with the sudden changes that take place every time a new minister takes over.

Government's posts, including those of ministers, must not be politicized at a time when we are in need of professional public officials to carry the duty of economic adjustment and reform. Deputies, who are elected by the people to represent their views and problems, do not necessarily make good ministers. ■



Palestinian president Yasser Arafat greets Qatari Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasssem Al Thani in Gaza, Monday.

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Between faith and blind fanaticism

By Robert Fisk

WE WERE on the train to Cambridge when Martin Buckley told me that the BBC were worried about the title of our program. "They think it might upset Muslims," he said. My title reflected a certain amount of irritation. I had spent so many weeks over the past few years cataloguing scores of "Islamic" punishments in the Arab Gulf, of head choppings and amputations and lashings—of young women as well as men—that I had wanted to call the programme "God the Most Merciful?" It was the question mark that bothered the BBC, of course. Buckley—a man of infinite politeness and job-like patience—had told the *Radio Times* that he would have a new title by the time our train arrived for our appointment with Tareef Khalidi. The magazine's deadline fell in just 45 minutes.

I told Buckley we should ask Khalidi if he thought my title so insulting. And when we arrived at his home, opposite King's College Chapel, Khalidi, a good-natured bear of a man whose historical scholarship is legendary among his students in Beirut, gave a grimace of displeasure. Well, I said, think of a new title for us, Tareef. "How can I do that Roberto?" he asked, arms raised above his head. "I've only just arrived here from Lebanon—I'm between two worlds." And "Between Two Worlds" was what we called our program.

Having watched the West's iniquities and its dangerous warlike technology—visited upon Muslims of a dozen countries, I could well understand why they should fear or hate us. But I have no reason to fear or hate them. On the battlefields of the Levant and the Gulf, Muslims have several times saved my life. So why did I feel so unhappy about making this program?

Tareef was quite about the punishments. "The great tragedy of modern Islamism," he said, "is that it has disregarded its own heritage and history, so that a great deal of the heritage of Islamic law and Islamic ethics is frequently ignored by modern practitioners of the religion. The modern lawyers don't know their history. And hence you have these brutal punishments, summarily issued, which lead to the burning of books, verdicts of unbelief, the cutting off of hands in public... I think at the base of it are nervous modern governments increasingly tending to accommodate conservative

and ignorant religious figures in order to pre-empt the fanatics. And it's a very sad state of affairs for a modern Muslim."

It surprised me how often Muslims were prepared to criticize the way in which their religion was practiced. Not Islam itself, of course, but the accretions that have been added to it, and the perverse logic that has caused, for instance, a Cairo court to order an Egyptian professor and his wife to divorce on the grounds that his academic work on the Koran proves him to be an apostate. Heba Ezzat, an Islamist writer and university teacher in Cairo, spoke bitterly of... Saudi Arabia—while accepting that both Muslims and Christians were responsible for the myth-making that followed the Crusades. "This is a fact that you can't just throw out of the window," she said. "Blood was shed. Through the centuries, both sides... started making our own myths regarding the enemy"... people just don't forget."

Asking Muslims about their belief produced an odd effect on me. I would not hesitate to refer to them as Muslims. But

I talked to Professor Nasr Abu Zaid, the Egyptian professor who, fearing for his life, fled Cairo after he was judged an apostate. Not wanting to give address over the phone, we met in a cafe at a Dutch railway station. "In the plane, I was very angry," he said. "I told my wife: 'If I die in any place—in Holland, in Spain—just bury my body where I die. Don't think about taking my body back to Egypt... Don't do this to yourself or to me. At the end, all the lands are the earth of God!'"

Abu Zaid Maged—whom I interrupted when he tried to make a sly parallel between Abu Zaid and Salman Rushdie—supported



Abu Zaid

Having watched the West's iniquities and its dangerous warlike technology—visited upon Muslims of a dozen countries, I could well understand why they should fear or hate us. But I have no reason to fear or hate them

I tried not to refer to "us" as Christians. When I referred to "our" fear of Islam or what "we" thought of the role of women in the Middle East, I referred to "the west" rather than to Christians. And although Kamal Abu Maged, an Islamist Egyptian lawyer, insisted that westerners still retained their faith in God, I understood the reason for my reticence. We self-doubting westerners, with our liberal consciences and our superb technology, do not have faith in God in the way that Muslims have. As Ezzat put it with near contempt when I asked her with my remarks about women: "Christianity is not in the center of your belief system any more."

the court's ruling. "You get the impression that this man does not believe in the Koran and is attacking and questioning the authenticity of the Koran," he said. "The issue is not criticism of the Koran. It is the reverting from Islam to disbelief."

It seemed to me—and it still seems to me that the emphasis on a woman's need to have less responsibility in outside life leads to the need to "protect" women and thus, by extension, to their secondary role in society. Who was I to make such objections. I was repeatedly asked, when I came from a society that allows women to toil in the [not clear] or undress for men in Manhattan strip joints? And

why, Ezzat asked me, should I trumpet the worth of western technology and the Muslim world's supposed backwardness? "You are talking to me about the...death of man... about the unequal distribution of wealth in the world," she said indignantly above the roar of Cairo's traffic. Muslims had not kept the scientific discoveries secret in the ninth century, so why does the West prevent the Third World from learning the secrets of its technology today?

It was a Christian, Kamal Salibi—director of the Royal Institute of Inter-Faith Studies in Amman as well as being a distinguished Lebanese historian—who most vividly evoked the sense of betrayal felt by Muslims towards the West. The Egyptian and Ottoman rulers of the last century had tried to be like Europeans, he said. "They were trying to introduce western education, even to learn western music and western art."

The last Sultans played Mozart and tried to paint. "They thought, perhaps if we do so, they [the Europeans] will become our friends," instead of that, they became more and more their enemies. Mohammed Ali Pasha was trying to be European. Europeans came and suppressed him. The Ottomans, while they were trying to become like Europeans, were called the "sick man of Europe" by the Europeans who began to make plans for the partition of their territory. And once they had succeeded in destroying the Ottoman empire, they never were happy to see any possibility of the re-emergence of a really orderly and progressive state in the area. ■

The Independent

An open letter to President Bill Clinton & Dennis Ross A modest proposal to solve the Hebron problem!

By Dr Clare Brandabur

THE US has been extremely permissive regarding Israeli settlement policy, and successive American administrations have claimed to be "even handed." Typical of this claim is White House spokesman Nicholas Burns' recent explanation that France cannot act as a mediator since, unlike the US, France is not perceived as "even handed".

However, I will argue that the US only pretends to concern itself with the good of the settlers in Hebron if their deep psychological needs were understood. Americans like the Levingers and their followers (including their hero, the late Baruch Goldstein) would not need to risk their lives in a hostile foreign environment where their talents are unappreciated—nay, sometimes even resented!

The Pilgrim Fathers fought for a New Jerusalem in the real Promised Land, America, the true birthright of these sterling citizens. If President Clinton really understood the subliminal motivations of these misunderstood Americans, he would invite them home. Of course, to make the invitation really compelling, he would have to withhold—being cruel only to be kind—a few billions from usual American largesse to Israel unless and until this offer is accepted. Why should the privilege of sanctions be reserved for harmless little places like Cuba and the now devastated Iraq?

What are these deep needs? I will tell you. First, there is the longing for a home. Is it not obvious that New York is the place to satisfy this burning need? We must build an exact replica of the Ibrahim Mosque in some asphalting jungle in the inner city of New York, since this building seems to hold an irresistible attraction for our compatriots. For a few extra thousand followers we could even decorate it with barbed wire and sandbags, just to give it a homely touch. You may object that it would take the thrill out of praying in this mosque if it were actually their own rather than someone else's, and I have thought of that: the good ecclesiastical Catholics of St. Patrick's Cathedral (many of whom visit Israel as a kind of early Christian theme park) would be more than happy to welcome their Jewish brethren for prayers, though possibly the New York police would request that they leave their heavy weapons in a stack near the holy water font at the rear of the church.

Suppose there is a need is also to use these weapons to shoot live humans (as suggested by the periodic massacres in which they indulge in the mosque in Hebron). Not to worry! We have a film industry which has made serial murder psychi-



Clinton

cally understandable, and we could save millions of dollars by taking groups of inmates from death row in various US prisons, assembling them (unarmed, of course) in the New Ibrahim Mosque in New York and, on appropriate festival occasions—say They Feast of the Atonement or Yom Kippur—the Jewish settlers could come in and machine-gun them all! Of course, the expensive carpets could be removed on such occasions so they would not be defaced by those blood stains.

If all these home comforts are not enough and there is still a crying need to run amok periodically, destroy cars, break windows, and loot their neighbours' stores, we could open branches of The Gap, I. Magazines, and Woolworths in the vicinity of the Mosque. Regular days for looting and pillaging could be set aside, funds from the UN Peacekeeping

budget being diverted to cover the losses of these stores: this would be much cheaper than the expenditure of millions to send soldiers abroad.

If Mr Burns finds the behaviour of these settlers defensible in the West Bank, surely they would be positively laudable back home. We already have enclaves of wealthy citizens living behind barbed wire, under guard from their more financially challenged neighbours. Furthermore, the fine family values of our settler citizens would come in handy for various campaigns—like "just say no to drugs" announced by Mrs Reagan, and the "kinder, gentler world" envisioned by George Bush. They have the almost unique advantage for the fight against drugs in the inner cities: not only are they trained in the use of weapons of mass destruction, but they come equipped with a complete indifference as to whether their neighbours like them or not.

But think of the fringe benefits: the city of Hebron would have its own mosque and its central market place back, its school children could go to school without being bludgeoned to death, and a precedent for a peaceful solution to the whole Palestine-Israeli problem would be established. But this beautifully equitable solution is only possible if the US will give the necessary good example: Just say no to all illegal settlements in the Palestinian lands! ■

Middle East
East Bank
by
Khairi Janji

The world and us

IT IS difficult to use terminology such as "us", and the "world". For if there is us, who is them? and if there is the term world aren't we supposed to be part of it? But when the term "us" is used, we must show that it is not an exclusive definition that sets the Arab world from the rest of humanity. It is a semantic attribute of a nostalgic dream for an Arab land emerging from the Ottoman yoke.

Using such a terminology loses its substance, that was once detached from its epistemological roots, linking the subject to the object. It is neither scientific determinism, nor economic imperatives that should govern the relationship of the subject (Arab nationals), with the object (Arab ideas), but rather elastic pragmatism that allows the absorption of ever changing circumstances and their consequences.

Peace is after all a process which has its own inner logic, with twists and turns at every level and each stage. It is not a conceptual dogma tied to an iron-cast tablet. Therefore the sooner we realize that the better it will be for all of us countries that have signed the peace with Israel: that is including the ones who have not, and get on with the battle of securing a better future.

Clearly, and at least in theory, the government control of the economy, and its role as the big provider, is becoming a thing of the past. Admittedly, there are still many gaps when it comes to governmental laissez-faire, be it in Jordan or any other Arab country involved in privatization and economic restructuring.

Some are still at the initial stage. Others are more advanced, and wish to remain within the realms of economic dogmas, relishing the illusions of comfortable lethargy. Integration into the world economy requires more than the old practice of paying lip service to allegiance to communism or anti-communism and when the recipe is right, money and armaments will flow without limits.

This is the age of successful socio-economic transformation, and credit worthiness. Dependency has gone out forever, and hard endeavours with comparative advantages are the mark of the 21st century. However, while looking forward to a bright future, we must always keep in mind, that this not a call for change at any price, as unless the stronger within our brethren, carries the weaker, the dream of well being is not worth pursuing. If it is not for all of us. Comprehensive peace will come at one point or another, one would be wise not to wait for it to materialize, but strive to be prepared for it when it happens.

When the term world is mentioned, clearly it is a term of identification of which "us" is an integral part of. We are faced with the problem of terminology, for it is most difficult to identify "us" in terms of a collective identity. When the argument is about Arabs and Arabism, we tend to discover that loyalty is governed by inter-regional identifications, rather than a supra national identity that exists beyond the linguistic or folkloric identifications. When we mention the term region, another dimension emerges: Israel, Turkey, and Iran. The paradigm of geographical extension becomes more crystallized than the one reliant on language. It starts getting more confusing when one starts getting into Mediterranean identity. Near Eastern, as well as Middle eastern. How is an Arab supposed to look like?

All these issues lead up to one problem, and that is the fact that we will never be able to deal with the world properly, a world which we are intrinsically a part of, without clarifying the basis of our identity. ■

Business scene

■ The General Assembly of the Jordan and Gulf Insurance Co., recently approved the company's budget, final account and losses for the fiscal year ending on 30 June. The Assembly recommended to the Supervising Insurance Officer of the need to review compulsory insurance prices that were subject to criticism as they do not take into account the volume of indemnities. The company maintained insurance premiums of JD 6,199,252 in the fiscal year 1995-1996. Cars insurance premiums counted for 55% of total premiums, followed by marine insurance, fire, accidents and life insurance. The company's reserve JD 1,589,586. The budget closed at JD 6,115,984.

■ The Jordanian Export Development and Commercial Centers Corp. (JEDCCO) said that a Palestinian trade mission is expected in Jordan between 22-27 November. They are meeting Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ali Abu Al Raghib, officials from the Corporation of Industrial Cuses, and the Association of Investors at Amman Industrial City Sahab and the Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Seminars will also be held on commercial relationship between Jordan and Palestine, covering customs policies and Jordan's role as a connecting centre for Arab markets.

■ Total assets of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) during last October reached JD 3,270,843,844 compared with JD 3,459,576,000 last September, the monthly report of CBJ said. Gold assets last October were JD 139,869,000, convertible foreign assets totalled JD 2,142 billion, and nonconvertible foreign accounts and deposits totalled JD 31,639,482. CBJ assets of Jordanian currency last month reached JD 1,086,889,290.

■ In the light of the technical joint cooperation agreement which was signed last October between the Amman and Paris Stock Exchanges, a team of experts from the Paris stock market and the French Deposit Centre arrived in Amman last Monday. They are putting forward plans to modernize the Amman Financial Market according to international standards. The French government earlier donated 10 French Francs to the AFM.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 20 November

| | Buy JD | Sell JD |
|-----------|--------|---------|
| US\$ | 0.7080 | 0.7100 |
| £ | 1.1820 | 1.1879 |
| DM | 0.4709 | 0.4733 |
| SFR | 0.5575 | 0.5603 |
| FFR | 0.1392 | 0.1399 |
| YEN (100) | 0.6333 | 0.6365 |
| DKK | 0.4199 | 0.4220 |
| ITL | 0.0467 | 0.0470 |

An Arab message with little substance

THE THIRD Middle East and North Africa Conference (MENA) which ended its three-day session last week is received by the majority of Arab countries with enthusiasm despite its limited achievement in the economic development process.

The Cairo venue as well as the previous two economic summits in Casablanca and Amman are seen as a good opportunity for the officials of participating countries to meet and discuss development projects that may be financed by public and private investors.

MENA III is really a declaration of an Arab message that stresses an urgent need to achieve economic and political integration. The Cairo conference calls for the full implementation of development plans that encourage Arab and foreign investments in the region. Moreover, it provides evidence that Arab countries can achieve a sound Arab economy based on self-reliance.

However, there is a difference. While the Casablanca and Amman events were described as summits, Cairo MENA was downgraded to that of a "conference" which concentrated on Arab integration within the global economy.

But a snag developed during the last venue. It was argued that economic integration with Israel cannot be reached so long as Israel continues a hardline stance.

"If Israel adheres to the peace process commitments, that are a must for a lasting stability and economic prosperity, then Arabs can accept Israeli existence in their regional conferences," Mr Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for the economy said.

The conference communiqué urged Israel to lift the blockade on the Palestinian territories as a condition for any advance in more normalization.

However, and despite growing pressure to slam the door on Israel, many Egyptian businessmen believe that it is worth keeping open lines to the Israeli business sector. They argue that this will enable them to get their message across the Israeli business sector which will in turn impose pressure on Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

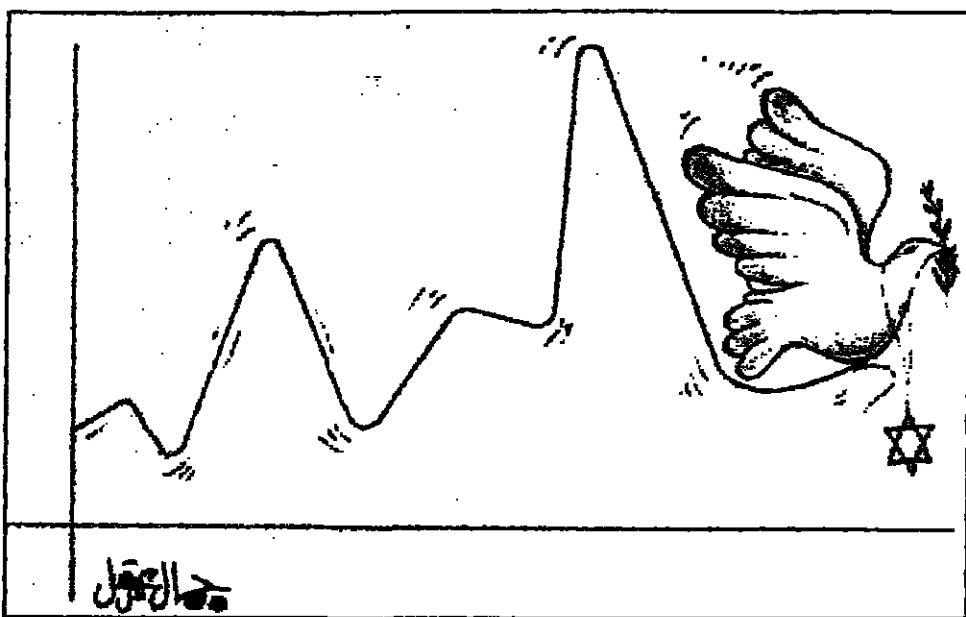
On the other hand, some economic experts suggest that Egypt was the most to benefit from the Cairo conference. Their view is based on the fact that at the end of the conference Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said that his country signed deals worth \$10 billion.

The most important agreement was signed between Egypt and Turkey. According to this \$2.4 billion contract Turkey will import up to 7.8 million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Egypt by the year 2000. This is seen as the biggest commercial transaction signed by American companies during the conference in a step that enhances investments in the region.

The Jordanian delegation which comprised representatives from the public and private sectors discussed a number of Jordanian projects worth \$3.7 billion.

Dr Rima Khalaf, minister of planning, signed an American donation agreement worth \$250,000 with the US secretary of commerce. This donation will finance a study worth \$7 million to improve and expand telecommunication services in the Kingdom.

The Arab Potash Co. has conducted serious talks with



foreign investors about the start-up of a number of projects. These include potassium sulphate projects worth \$80 million and magnesium oxide project worth \$5 million. Foreign investors showed willingness to participate in these projects and are studying the matter further, said Mr Sulaiman Al Hawari, the director of the Arab Potash Co.

"The main result of the Cairo MENA conference is that it defined the framework and conditions of regional co-operation in the economic fields," says Dr Tayseer Abdul Jabir, a Jordanian economic analyst.

These conditions were stated in the Conference's communiqué, which stressed that regional economic co-operation is not limited to active participation of Israel.

Thus, despite its intensive efforts to occupy a dominating position in the region, Israel

will never be able to reach such a goal. Its size and resources can't fulfill its objectives. Other competing countries, such as Egypt, won't allow Israel to dominate the region.

The possibility of further economic co-operation between Arab countries and Israel depends on the latter's attitude to carry out its peace agreement with the Palestine National Authority (PNA), including withdrawal from Hebron, ending closure of the Palestinian territories and releasing all prisoners.

Such a position is supported by many other countries which participated in the Cairo conference. These include Europeans, Asians and Africans.

In addition, the process of including Israel in a regional economic framework will be limited as long as peace remains partial. Even if Israel proves obliging to its peace

commitments with the PNA, the delay of negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks denies these economic conferences the momentum of inclusiveness, Abdul Jabir adds.

There is also the boycott which is imposed on Iraq and Libya. This undoubtedly reduces investment opportunities and stability which is reflected on regional co-operation.

In general, however, the Cairo MENA III conference marked the global concerns in the economies of the Middle East and North Africa, and gave a step forward to the development bank.

Moreover, it stressed the need for Arab coordination in such a critical stage, including the necessity to have an Arab commercial zone that is open into the global economy, Abdul Jabir said.

MENA Economic Conference seen successful despite odds

By George S. Hishmeh

CAIRO—As hundreds of delegates began returning home 15 November from a three-day Middle East/North Africa (MENA) economic conference here, participants and organizers agreed that this third gathering of government leaders and the public and private sectors was "highly successful" despite the deadlocked Palestinian-Israeli talks on Hebron and the "summer clouds" hanging over Arab-Israeli relations.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told a closing press conference that deals negotiated at the conference totaled \$10 billion but he did not identify any of these. The most important agreement which was announced here, however, was the Egyptian-Turkish multi-billion dollar gas deal under which Egypt will export liquefied natural gas to Turkey. Amoco, the American oil giant was the winner of this contract.

Another sign of the success of the conference, according to Klaus Schwab, founder and president of the Geneva-based world Economic Forum which organized the conference, was the 40,000 entries recorded on the electronic messaging system that the participants used, an indication of the vast networking that took place between the 50 panel

discussions. US Under Secretary of State Joan E. Spero underlined that this MENA economic session was "highly successful" and went on to say that these regional conferences "symbolize and embody" the process of dialogue and negotiations that has changed the face of the Middle East.

"Let us not forget," Spero reminded a press briefing, "that we would not be together in Cairo were it not for the peace process," which she credited with transforming the economic climate of the region.

Acknowledging that the peace process, launched five years ago in Madrid, remains "fragile," the senior American official stated: "we all have work to do to keep it moving forward."

The plight of the fledgling Palestinian autonomous areas received top attention at the conference in the final declaration and from various government officials, who had earlier feared that the conference would be significantly marred by the deadlocked peace talks.

Spero noted that the economic benefits of peace "have yet to spread as widely as we would have hoped." She went on to cite the case of the Palestinian regions. "There continues to be severe economic hardship today in the West

Bank and Gaza and the Palestinian have yet to achieve a full stake in the economic benefits of peace."

The three-page communiqué issued at the end of the conference expressed the participants' "unwavering commitment to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, on the basis of the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference, established by UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

The communiqué also underlined "the utmost importance of the faithful and expeditious implementation" of agreements reached by the parties to date, "in particular on the Israeli-Palestinian track."

They also stressed the "crucial importance of the development of the Palestinian economy" and noted with concern "but without mentioning Israel by name," "the already weak Palestinian economy is suffering from restrictions and closures which hinder the daily movement of Palestinian labor and trade."

The participants suggested in the communiqué, titled, Cairo Declaration, that "removing restrictive measures and closures will prevent the decline of, and contribute positively to the performance of the Palestinian economy, as

well as the political atmosphere surrounding the peace process in its entirety."

In impassioned remarks at the closing session, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri stressed that prosperity in the region was within grasp if only peace talks between Israel and its neighbors could make progress.

"If you lose peace, everyone will be the loser. If we put the peace process back on track, everyone will gain."

The prime minister, who heads a business-oriented government that was repeatedly praised during the conference for its economic reform program, struck an optimistic note as he appealed to the visiting businessmen to come back and invest in the region. He said: "It may be just a summer cloud. There may be problems now, but we still look forward to cooperation to put ourselves on the world map."

This was the largest of the Middle East/North Africa economic conferences held in Casablanca and Amman, with about 3,000 from 92 countries, including 500 businessmen from Egypt, attending. The US businessmen delegation was also the largest that attended any of the two earlier meetings.

But unlike the previous two conferences, this meeting was

not attended by the leaders of Israel and the Palestine Authority because of the faltering peace negotiations between them, a factor that robbed the conference of being identified in Egypt as a "summit" conference. There were no heads of state present, other than President Mubarak, at the opening session.

The Casablanca conference was mainly recognized for its political achievement of having Israeli businessmen meet with their counterparts from the Arab world for the first time after the launching of the peace process in 1991.

But, as Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa noted here, this conference has succeeded in putting regional cooperation in its true dimension.

"Arab-Arab cooperation is the backbone. That doesn't exclude cooperation with others under the right conditions but we don't want any one country to be the center," he stressed.

The next Middle East/North Africa economic conference will be held next November in Doha, Qatar, in accordance with an agreement reached at the Amman economic summit conference last year.

USIA

Business Chronicle

Jordanian investment fund to be established in Bahrain

IN A move to provide more incentives to boost the economic performance and attract investments on the local and foreign markets, the Housing Bank has announced the establishing of an investment fund in Bahrain. It would use the Jordan dinar as the common denominator.

This is one of the investment projects that were discussed at the Cairo MENA III conference which ended its sessions last Thursday, 14 November.

At a paid-up capital of JD 10 million, many people would benefit from this fund which is aimed to attract Jordanian, Arab and foreign investors who are looking for investment opportunities in Jordan.

Its financial units will be offered for dealings in the Bahrain and Amman financial markets, Mr Abdul Qadir Al Duweik, the vice-chairman of the Housing Bank says.

The new Jordanian Investment Fund is the first of its kind to be managed by Alliance Capital, an American company. It's world-famous for its role in creating investment funds.

The corporation agreement between the Housing Bank and Alliance Capital points to the encouragement of the investment environment in Jordan and the strong and positive role that the Housing Bank is playing in financial and international markets.

The fund will mainly focus in investment in shares and bonds that are issued by the Jordanian government, public institutions and shareholding companies that are listed on Amman Financial Market.

"This step, adopted by the Housing Bank, comes within the framework of the government's strategic objectives to enhance investments and is in line with the country's policy to attract foreign investments and invest them in Jordan," Al Duweik says.

Establishing the investment fund in Bahrain will contribute to the boosting of financial exchange and cooperation between the AFM and Bahrain Securities market, Al Duweik adds.

The next stage demands that the banking sector in Jordan embarks on a new long-and medium-term investment and boost its financing and competitive abilities to be able to deal with the future challenges of the banking sector, Al Duweik says.

Britain emphasizes free trade to achieve prosperity

AMMAN (Star)—The British government has a vision of global free trade by the year 2020. All around the world, countries are entering into commitments to free trade.

London has a leading role in calling for the liberalization of the world markets. And in this regard the Middle East is becoming a focus for foreign investments.

Under the title "Free Trade and Foreign Policy: a global vision," Britain is taking the initiative to discuss its vision at the first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that is due to be held next December in Singapore.

British participants are expected to discuss the elimination of trade barriers, and resumption of multilateral talks between the European Union and the United States regarding the need to open up the markets and secure more funds and incentives for foreign investments.

In a press conference held at the British Embassy, Mr Roger Sykes, commercial secretary says that the British government cooperates and co-ordinates with EU members, the International Monetary Fund and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to create the climate for economic growth and competition to enhance telecommunications and improve financial services.

The British government is in favor of free trade which offers consumers the widest choice at the lowest prices. In addition, this allows companies and countries to make the most of their potentials. The Director-General of the WTO has asked the world's most prosperous countries to give the least developed guarantees of tariff-free access for their products. Britain is urging the European Union to do this, Mr Sykes adds.

This requires dismantling barriers which still impede international trade, investments and finance, he continues.

Privatization may carry a risk in the short-term, but this is a first step, he adds to the removal of the distortions in the economy. Mr Sykes points out, stressing that this process will go on gradually and people will come to adapt themselves to it.

The transitional period from a protected economy to a free one has to move forward enhanced by governments' economic measures. This will boost the role of the private sector and encourage foreign investments.

At present the policy of protection imposes heavy costs, there is no competitive industries operating in the same country, and this means there is no exports, Mr Sykes says.

The great merit of free trade and open markets is that, it is an inclusive policy. Every country gains. That is Britain's vision towards 2020, Mr Sykes maintained.

The volume of trade exchange between Britain and Jordan has been increasing in recent years. In 1995, British exports to Jordan totalled £120 million. This year, and until last September, these exports rose by 20 percent. Jordan's exports to Britain is meager. Last year the figure was only £24 million. For 1997 10 British trade missions are expected in Amman.



Sykes

MARKET WATCH

16-19 November

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

| SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Cables 5.00 National Commercial Center 2.13 Central Storage for Trade 1.69 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Estate Investment 3.37 Philadelpia Bank 1.71 Mining Co. 1.19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Tobacco & Cigarettes 5.03 National Commercial Center 4.35 Philadelpia Bank 4.20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Storage for Trade 5.35 Jordan Int'l Trading Center 5.08 National Commercial Center 4.17 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gulf Insurance 5.15 Jordan sulpho chemicals 5.13 The Public Mining 4.91 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic Weaving 2.08 Central Trading 5.08 Al Kazi 4.92 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woolen Industries 4.92 National Engineering Industries 4.44 Central Storage for Trade 3.51 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan sulpho chemicals 5.41 National Cables 4.76 Rafid Industrial 3.82 |
| General Price Pointer 147.350 | 147.04 | 146.810 | 146.340 |
| Trade Volume 9543862 | 593999 | 416571 | 514780 |
| Stock Volume 1237088 | 762590 | 441568 | 401685 |

Highest Traded Stocks

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Middle East Complex 682475 | • Middle East Complex 145831 | • Gulf Bank 76458 | • Cairo Bank 85.00 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

\$200 million gas project in Oman

CAIRO—Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) President and CEO Ruth R. Harkin announced that OPIC will provide \$200 million in political risk insurance for a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Oman. The project is OPIC's largest venture in the country.

During a press conference with US Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor, Mrs Harkin announced OPIC's support to the Oman LNG project and committed to further promote US private investment in the country.

OPIC has committed to provide up to \$200 million in political risk insurance to New York's Chase Manhattan Bank for loans to the project.

The Oman LNG project is an integral part of the Omani government's economic reform program which is designed to

stimulate and diversify the country's economy through foreign investment, deregulation and privatization. The project is expected to create up to 3,000 local construction jobs and 240 permanent positions.

The project also will have significant US economic benefits. Nearly \$200 million in American-made goods will be shipped to the project, creating more than 600 US jobs. In addition to Chase, several US suppliers and contractors benefit from the project, including Foster Wheeler Corporation of Clinton, New Jersey, a primary engineering, procurement and construction contractor.

OPIC recently committed support to three additional projects in the region. These are:

■ \$400 million in combined financing and insurance to CMS Generation Company of Dearborn, Michigan, for the

Jorf Lasfar power project in Morocco. This 1,320 MW power plant is the first private power facility in Morocco.

■ \$1.7 million direct loan to Chicago-based Culligan International Company for a bottled water project in the West Bank.

■ Investment Guaranty to the \$45 million InterArab Investment Fund, L.P. which will make equity investments in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and Oman.

Supporting American business for 25 years, OPIC is a

self-sustaining federal agency that encourages private sector investment in countries and areas important to U.S. foreign policy. Since 1971, OPIC has supported investments worth \$84 billion that will generate \$43 billion in U.S. exports and help to create 200,000 American jobs. OPIC earns a profit of about \$200 million a year from the sale of its services and now has reserves totaling more than \$2.7 billion.

The Star
645380 - 652380

Palestine Post

Birzeit university gravely concerned about safety of student

■ BIRZEIT—Following a visit by the Human Rights Action Project (HRAP) lawyer, Birzeit University remains gravely concerned about the health and well being of educational diploma student Mohammed Abdel-Aziz Hamdan from Ramallah. On Thursday, 14 November, the Israeli High Court of Justice revoked its order of the previous day blocking the use of violence in the interrogation of Mohammed on the grounds that new evidence made unrestricted interrogation "necessary". On the same day, interrogators informed Mohammed, "We have an order from the High Court to do whatever we want to with you. Prepare yourself." General Security Services (GSS) agents resumed interrogation utilizing techniques that had been banned by the injunction including violent shaking.

This move by the High Court must be seen to further legalize the use of torture by the Israeli General Security Services (GSS). Permitting torture in response to the ambiguous utilization of a "condition of necessity" violates basic tenets of human rights standards which ban the use of torture in all circumstances, regardless of the allegations against a detainee.

Mohammed was arrested from his home on October 7, 1996, issued with a four-month order of administrative detention (detention without charge or trial), and taken to Megiddo Prison. On 24 October Israeli authorities transferred Mohammed from Megiddo to the Russian Compound in Jerusalem for interrogation. The HRAP was first informed of his detention and interrogation on 11 November by a family member. On the same day, HRAP lawyer Elia Theodorou visited Mohammed in the Russian Compound and took from him an affidavit. Lawyer Theodorou immediately shared this information with Adv. Andre Rosenthal and asked that Rosenthal appeal to the High Court for an injunction against the use of violence.

According to the affidavit, Mohammed reached the Russian Compound on Thursday, 24 October at 2:00 am. He was transferred directly into interrogation by six Israeli GSS agents. The interrogators placed cuffs on Mohammed's wrists and legs, tightening the bands to the point that he reported pain. On two separate occasions, interrogators shook Mohammed five or six times in rapid succession while he was tied to a chair with his hands behind him and his head tilted backwards. HRAP later learned that the interrogators shook Mohammed a third time on the afternoon of 11 November, after the lawyer visited.

During the first 11 days of interrogation Mohammed spent most of the time tied to a small chair with his hands and legs cuffed and a filthy sack placed over his head. He was permitted to sleep for approximately two hours every three days. Interrogators reportedly informed Mohammed that he would leave their custody only dead or paralyzed.

Lawyer Rosenthal submitted a petition to the Israeli High Court of Justice for an injunction against the use of violence by the GSS on Wednesday, 13 November. At this time the GSS agreed to suspend the use of violence. The following day, however, Wednesday, 14 November, the GSS returned to the High Court to request the revocation of the injunction on the grounds that new evidence made it "necessary" to interrogate Mohammed without restraint. The High Court granted the request and revoked the injunction. Mohammed, who had now been held by the Israeli authorities for 38 days, was returned to the Russian Compound for continued interrogation.

As noted above, immediately upon his return to the Russian Compound, Mohammed was placed under interrogation. On Friday, 15 November, Mohammed was again subjected to violent shaking. Sleep deprivation and position abuse have continued until today. During his visit today, Mohammed reported to his lawyer that despite the urgency reported by the GSS in the High Court, his interrogation has not focused on an alleged attack or even on his alleged knowledge of any such plans.

Israeli ID cards confiscation causes strong protest

■ Despite the growing public protest by East Jerusalem Palestinians and local human rights organizations, the Israeli authorities continue to deny that they have changed their residency policy towards the Palestinian residents of the city. This position stands in contradiction to the hundreds of cases of ID card confiscations filed by Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations.

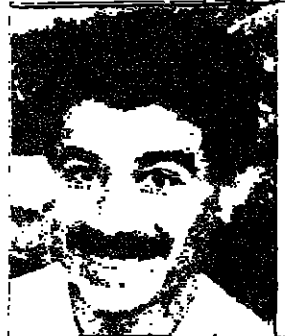
Between 1967 until 1995, Israel used to issue re-entry visas to Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem living abroad. These re-entry visas were valid between one and three years, and they were issued by the Jerusalem Interior Ministry and the Israeli representations abroad.

Palestinian Jerusalemites were thus made to believe that regular renewal of their visa would protect their residency rights in Jerusalem. The Israeli authority never informed the public about the fact that this procedure was inadequate according to Israeli law (1952 Law of Entry to Israel, 1974 Entry to Israel Regulations) which states that permanent residents are liable to lose their status if they live outside the country for more than seven years and/or apply for permanent residency/citizenship in a foreign country. Moreover, the public was not notified of the fact that the right to live in East Jerusalem would become linked to proof of "center of life" inside the municipal boundaries of the city.

Since 1995, Israel began applying both its laws and the "center of life" criteria, and trapped Palestinian Zaki H. is a Palestinian Jerusalemite living in the United States for the past 10 years. Although he carries a US passport, he has always regarded his stay in the US as temporary. Thus he never missed to renew his Israeli-issued laissez passer, which—so he thought—would protect his rights as a Jerusalem resident. Due to the 1995 Israeli policy change, Zaki H. will lose his Jerusalem ID card during his next visit in his hometown in December 1996.

Based on the fact that the US Consulate had intervened on behalf of Palestinian citizens of the United States whose Jerusalem ID cards were confiscated in summer 1996, when Israel began to apply its law prohibiting dual citizenship/residency, the Alternative Information Center (AIC) requested the Consulate's assistance in the case of Zaki H. on 7 November 1996. However, the AIC was informed by Ms Catherine Riley of the US Consular Section that the Consulate was unable to provide any kind of support "as long as ID card confiscations happen within the framework of the Israeli law." This, Ms Riley stated, was the result of consultations with the US State Department which had advised the Consulate to abstain from "interference in internal Israeli affairs."

This US position, according to which the protection of Palestinian residency rights in occupied East Jerusalem equals "interference in internal Israeli affairs" is yet more blatant proof of US support for Israel's claim of sole sovereignty over the city. Moreover, the US stand is in clear violation of International Law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 47 and 49) which obliges the occupying power to abstain from introducing any changes into the laws and institutions of the occupied territory and forbids individual or mass transfer of protected persons from the occupied territory elsewhere.



Hamdan

Attackers of Arabs get lenient treatment by Israeli courts

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

NABLUS—For more than a year, Capt. Ilan Biton, a small and undistinguished-looking Israeli army commander, strode the streets of this West Bank city, twisting the hands of Palestinian children, slapping, hitting and kicking them. According to the charges brought against him, details of which he admitted in his guilty plea, Biton tied a man and pistol-whipped him during a search for illegal weapons. He beat another man with a heavy flashlight, and slammed the head of yet another man against a wall.

But two weeks ago, after a trial that lasted almost a year, a panel of three judges decided not to send Biton to prison or to strip him of his rank. Instead, they gave him a three-month suspended sentence for his more than 30 offenses. In their brief decision, which is being appealed by a military prosecutor, they wrote that Biton's problem was one of "excess motivation."

"We are convinced that the acts were not committed with the intention of hurting anybody, but because of the initial

tive of the accused, and his wish to uncover information," the judges wrote.

The trial, most of which was held in secret, made no headlines. But human rights monitors said they were not surprised at its outcome: Over the years, they say, leniency has been the norm when it comes to abuse of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers in the occupied territories. Many such crimes are never even investigated, or the investigations are quickly closed, the groups say. If they come to trial, the perpetrators, including killers, often receive insignificant sentences or are pardoned outright.

Each side perceives the other as being insufficiently concerned, and the results are self-fulfilling: Israelis view the Palestinian Authority's unwillingness to extradite or punish alleged terrorists as a serious violation of the Oslo peace accords, proving that the Palestinians are untrustworthy negotiating partners. Palestinians see Israel's unwillingness to prosecute its wrongdoers as further proof that Israelis don't really want peace.

"This is the way the Israeli

courts have always been since the beginning of the occupation," said Hussein Deifallah, who works with the Palestinian human rights group al-Haq. "In an effort to preserve the image of the Israeli super-soldier they don't want any one to know that their soldiers are capable of such sadistic behavior. So they keep it hidden."

According to Yaron Ezrahi, a professor of political science at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, there is a duality in the Israeli approach, as the country moves confusedly and ambivalently toward peace. Even as it redeploys its troops in the occupied territories, most Israelis still believe that they are fighting a war in the West Bank and Gaza. As a result, the country and its institutions remain somewhat sympathetic to Jewish settlers and soldiers who commit acts of violence against Arabs.

"I think a majority of people still believe the Palestinians are the enemy," said Eitan Felner, deputy director of B'Tselem. "It's true in the military and the courts—it infiltrates all different layers of our society."

Still, the other side of the

duality is that, particularly since 1994, when Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein machine-gunned 29 Palestinians praying at a mosque in Hebron, Israel announced that it has been making a greater effort to crack down on violence against Arabs. The US State Department, for instance, noted in its most recent human rights report that after years of laxness, the Israeli army is making a concerted effort to stop violence by settlers. The Shamgar commission, established after the Hebron massacre, opened the eyes of many Israelis to what was happening in the territories.

"We were shocked, really, by what the committee reported," said David Libai, who served as the Minister of Justice in the governments of Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Peres.



Face of violence: Man-handled by Israeli soldiers

In the weeks ahead, the Israeli system will be tested again with the case of Nahum Korman, a Jewish settler ac-

cused of chasing, beating and killing a 10-year-old Palestinian boy after his car was pelted with stones. Korman, who says the boy tripped, has been charged with manslaughter, which carries a 20-year prison sentence.

In the parts of the West Bank and Gaza controlled by the Palestinian Authority, the criminal justice system is just developing, and the government is just figuring out how to deal with its own criminals. Many of the Palestinians charged with crimes against Israelis have been dealt with in the state security courts, where proceedings are quick and secret. It is sometimes difficult to know how leniently they were treated.

Samah Kenan, a top aide to Col. Jibril Rajoub, who runs the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security Force in the West Bank, denied that prisoners have been let out of jail early, and said his agency has arrested and punished several Palestinians for attacks on Israelis. He pointed in particular to the two Palestinians who shot David Boim, a 17-year-old Israeli with US citizenship, last year. One man, Kenan said, was in custody in Jenicho, and the police were searching for his accomplice.

"For us, these people are criminals, not heroes," said Kenan. "Anyone who commits a crime against an Israeli in our area is trying to harm the peace process. So we arrest him, and we put him in jail."

Sentence for killing an Arab

One-third of a cent

By Barton Gellman

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

JERUSALEM—An Israeli military court has convicted four soldiers of negligently shooting to death an 18-year-old Palestinian in the West Bank. Then it passed sentence: one hour in jail, suspended, and a fine of one Israeli agora—just under one-third of a US cent.

It was not the first time that soldiers got off lightly for killing an Arab in haste. Independent investigators count 1,251 cases in which Israeli troops killed Palestinians during and after the

93 uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, often acting in violation of army rules forbidding lethal force except under mortal threat. Fourteen soldiers are known to have been convicted. Eleven were given suspended sentences or community service.

But something about last Sunday's sentencing struck a nerve when the news was made public the following day. The agora, one-hundredth of an Israeli shekel, is so meager a sum that merchants commonly refuse to bother with change of less than 100, and coins valued at less than 10 no longer exist. Human rights advocates, Israeli and Arab, saw a message in the precision of the fine.

"One agora!" said Bassam Eid, founder of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. "It means the government wants to show how much a Palestinian person's life is worth. Its message is very clear: This is how cheap you are for us."

Shirly Eran, data coordinator of the Israeli human rights watchdog group B'tselem, said the sentence "is so ridiculous I don't know what to say. If they are not guilty they should be found not guilty, and if they are guilty why are they fined an agora?"

No answer was forthcoming from the military court of Israel's Central Command, based in Jaffa. Lt. Col. Ilana Stern, the chief judge in the case, declined through the army

spokesman's office to be interviewed. The spokesman also refused to provide a copy of the court's judgment and sentence, which is ordinarily a public record, or any information on the army's official view of the facts of the case.

Late Monday evening, after a day of inquiries following the case's exposure on Israel Radio, the chief military prosecutor issued a statement saying he would appeal the leniency of the sentence. But he acknowledged that he had agreed in a plea bargain to suspended sentences for the four soldiers.

Last Sunday's case arose from a shooting on 13 November 1993.

An elite undercover unit known as Duvdevan, or Cherry, which uses covert tactics to catch—and often kill—Palestinians, set up a surprise roadblock at nightfall about a mile east of the Palestinian town of Salfit, between Nablus and Ramallah.

Bilal Amli, 20, said in an affidavit at the time that he saw spotlights and flares near an unmarked Volkswagen van and slowed his car to a halt. "I stopped because I could not see," he said. "Suddenly a man exited a vehicle with a spotlight aimed at us, and then we were being shot with heavy fire."

Lyad Mahmoud Badran, 18, who sat in Amli's passenger seat, died of his wounds.

According to an Israeli officer at the scene who spoke that day to Eid and Gidon Levy of the newspaper Haaretz, the soldiers had ordered Amli forward, but then feared he might get too close and try to run them down. They said they fired in the air, and Amli tried to reverse. At that point, the officer said, the soldiers fired on the vehicle. No one inside was accused of wrongdoing. ■

1987-



Wafic Said

'My battle with the dons'

By Valerie Grove

IN HIS palatial apartment in London, Wafic Said awaits a telephone call from Oxford. It will tell him that dons have decided to hold a postal ballot on whether to accept his £29 million to fund a business school in the centre of Oxford.

The spectacle of leather-elbowed dons spurning filthy lucre is now familiar. But Mr Said—who resembles Sir Anthony Hopkins in Hannibal when he smiles—is gracious about their mistrust, even amused by it.

"Had I frittered my money on a luxurious yacht, nobody would mind," he laughs. "But try to do something worthwhile, and they look for ulterior motives."

The butler brings coffee. The lamps are lit, because the book-lined room is darkened by his next-door neighbor's scaffolding. Who is the tiresome neighbor? His Grace, replies Mr Said, "the Duke of Westminster. He is our landlord, how can I complain? But I sent a note asking the builders to refrain from banging this afternoon."

All cash-trapped colleges at Oxford and Cambridge must

was a rejection of the Mansfield Road site, not of him. And it was hardly representative. "Only 15 percent of the Congregation attended, and only eight percent voted against. How can eight percent defeat such an important project? We must know the verdict of the other 85 percent."

A business school in Oxford was not his idea in the first place. "In 1990 Oxford decided it wanted a world class business school in the center of Oxford life. They came to me. I agreed to give 50 percent. People think I insisted on the site. That is not the case. The university presented it as suitable."

"We selected an imaginative architect (Dixon-Jones) and as the Vice-Chancellor said, we are giving a garden back to Oxford."

Mr Said, who has several homes, including one in Marbella, can live where he pleases, he says: "I have chosen England." He married his English wife Rosemary, a Cheltenham Ladies' College girl, 27 years ago. He has an Oxfordshire estate of 30,000 acres. Henry Cecil trains his horses. "The horse embodies what is strong and beautiful in Arab culture. I always love racing—even more since I admire the democratic institutions of this country—including the freedom of the press, ha ha ha!"

His father was Syria's education minister who founded Damascus's university in the Twenties during the French mandate. Wafic Said went to a Jesuit school in Beirut after Cambridge, he dabbled in



banking and in 1967 opened two restaurants in Kensington High Street, decorated like an Arab tent, with Lebanese dancers. "It was terribly fashionable, but most of the customers were friends who did not pay their bills."

Oxford's objections are perfectly clear to him. "Some are against the site because 30 years ago the University pledged not to build on it. Some are against having a management school at Oxford at all. And finally there are those who are against me because they do not like me."

"I say to them, if it is any comfort to them, I am not an

arms dealer. I have never sold so much as a pen-knife. I am Syrian born, I am proud of it, and I am an admirer of Mrs. Thatcher. And if this presents a problem I am very sorry." Yes, he was the agent responsible for fixing Britain's biggest defence order, the £20 million Al-Yamamah contract with Saudi Arabia.

"I was involved in my small way in defending the interests of Britain. The project brought tremendous benefits to the nation for the last seven years."

"Something like 400,000 people worked on it. But if I am an arms dealer then the chairman of British Aerospace

withdrawal of his gift to Oxford when dons objected on the grounds of his Nazi ancestry. "I happen to know the gentleman, a very generous man. To behave like this to a man who wanted to give something to Oxford was wrong. The university never asked him to withdraw his benefaction, but I think he did not want to face the battle."

"Let's face it, it is this going to deter private donors in the future? Of course."

But he will not withdraw. "We have worked on this for almost five years and many people have committed themselves to it. It is worth fighting for."

is an arms dealer, and the Prime Minister is an arms dealer."

Yes, of course he profited from the deal. "All Saudi businessmen gained indirectly, because a problem like that requires much infrastructure, construction and maintenance, after the boom of the Eighties."

Lord Jenkins, photographed beaming alongside Mr. Said in the Oxford Magazine, says the benefaction will put Mr. Said among those "to whom Oxford has immortality" given.

This was shortly after Dr. Gert Rudolph Flick's withdrawal of his gift to Oxford when dons objected on the grounds of his Nazi ancestry.

To behave like this to a man who wanted to give something to Oxford was wrong. The university never asked him to withdraw his benefaction, but I think he did not want to face the battle."

"Let's face it, it is this going to deter private donors in the future? Of course."

But he will not withdraw. "We have worked on this for almost five years and many people have committed themselves to it. It is worth fighting for."

He knows that suspicion centres on the fact that his foundation will own the business school: "We will oversee the construction of the building. It is nonsense that we will have a say in the academic running of the school."

"It will be run by ten trustees, six of them appointed by me, but approved by the Vice-Chancellor—including myself. Sir Charles Powell and Lord Alexander—and four by the university. The only other power the foundation has is the appointment of the director. Professor John Kay, one of the greatest economists in the country."

Of the dons I have spoken to, some will vote for the school "in order not to deter other benefactors" while others will vote against not out of malice to Mr. Said, or snobbery about business courses, but because they think the university has been underhand. "Oxford is a very rebellious society," he said.

"We don't want your bloody money," read a banner outside the Sheldonian last week. Mr. Said shrugs: "What would undergraduates be coming to if they did not protest?"

If there is agreement by February 1, his benefaction stands. If next January's ballot of 3,200 dons goes against him, Mr. Said will "bow and accept the decision. I would have no choice. Who am I to tell Oxford what to do? But it would be regrettable, heartbreaking, a tribal blow. And everyone would lose."

Success of democratic change surprising in Romania

By Tracy Wilkinson
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

BUCHAREST. Romania—Soaring prices, idle factories and new outbreaks of contagious disease all attest to an impoverished Romania in the throes of economic and social decline.

But emerging alongside that gloomy picture is a remarkable political phenomenon: democratic change in a country where it was perhaps least anticipated.

In massive numbers, Romanians voted last week to oust the former Communists who have ruled them ever since the 1989 overthrow and execution of Eastern Europe's most brutal dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu. And on Sunday, they chose a president in a very close race that ended President Ion Iliescu's firm hold on power and made an opposition takeover complete.

"It's a second revolution, a radical change—and so unexpected," said Stelian Tanase, a pro-opposition political scientist. "In Romania it is a new experience to change power peacefully, by voting. People are desperate, but they are also more courageous than they were six or seven years before. They are now willing to risk change."

Indeed, this is Romania's first peaceful transfer of power in 60 years, and it reflects a newly efficient opposition, an

aggressively free media, growing anger at miserable economic conditions and a fading image of Iliescu as the savior who ousted the dreaded Ceausescu.

Gimmicks such as lotteries and prizes have helped lure voters into the political process. Television and radio stations doled out television sets and hundreds of dollars to the best questioners at public candidate forums; voters could redeem their stamped voting cards for baseball caps, and more than 10,000 did so, according to the television station that sponsored the contest.

Political parties were unheard of during Ceausescu's time, when a sinister secret intelligence service called the Securitate combined with the dictator's own xenophobic Stalinist policies to oppress this nation of 23 million with fear and isolation.

Ceausescu was toppled in a revolution that many say then became a coup by middle-level Communists, with Iliescu emerging the victor. It was the bloodiest end to Communism anywhere in Eastern Europe, with an estimated 1,200 people killed. Still traumatized and alienated, Romanians were then reluctant to embark on radical change and gave landslide approval to Iliescu in elections in 1990 and 1992.

A former associate of Ceausescu who eventually split with the dictator, Iliescu is now blamed for the slow pace of economic reform that critics



say has plunged Romania deeper into poverty. Average salaries have fallen below \$100 a month and inflation is topping 45 percent, sending living standards well below those of nearby Hungary and Poland.

Iliescu, and much of the country, was stunned to see his leftist Party of Social Democ-

racy finish in parliamentary voting a distant second to a center-right reformist coalition called the Democratic Convention of Romania, led by goateed academic Emil Constantinescu.

Adding insult to injury, Iliescu was forced into a runoff with Constantinescu for a four-

year presidential term.

Constantinescu's chances for unseating Iliescu received a significant boost last week when the third top vote-getter, Petre Roman and his Social Democratic Union, joined forces with the Democratic Convention. Roman was promised the post of prime minister in exchange for his support.

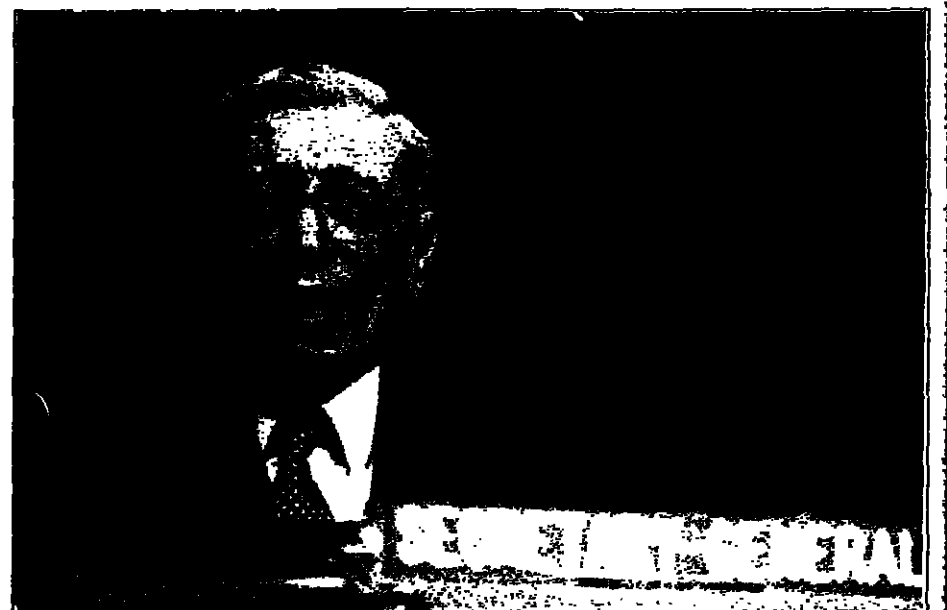
Constantinescu and his supporters harp on the corruption scandals that have plagued the government and emphasize their 180-day emergency plan for reviving the economy. Romania cannot be rescued from its Communist legacy until Iliescu is out of office, Constantinescu says.

Until now, Romania was the only country of Eastern Europe's former Soviet bloc in which the anti-Communist opposition was not given a turn in power. Regardless of last Sunday's presidential results, the opposition victory in the 3 November parliamentary vote ensures that the new Parliament and all ministries will be controlled by the Constantinescu-Roman coalition.

Whether Iliescu wins the presidency, he and his party are expected to remain a force likely to exploit unrest over the new government's troubles.

Constantinescu, with no political experience, and others in his coalition have not developed in a culture of dialogue or compromise, and even their advisers concede they will not tolerate criticism. ■

US casts lone veto to reject Boutros-Ghali



Odds against Boutros-Ghali

By Josh Friedman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

UNITED NATIONS—The race for UN secretary-general started in earnest Tuesday after the United States cast a lone veto in the Security Council against electing Boutros Boutros-Ghali to a second term.

The 14 other council members voted to reappoint Boutros-Ghali, 74, for another five years, but any of the council's five permanent members can thwart a majority vote with its veto.

"Clearly, this is not a democratic process. Let's see what happens now," said Boutros-Ghali's spokeswoman, Sylvana Foa, who would not indicate when or whether he would withdraw his name.

Boutros-Ghali, a member of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority, theoretically could continue to fight for re-election by trying to create a stalemate among the veto-wielding members of the council, then taking his candidacy to the General Assembly, where years of anti-American resentment could explode into an unprecedented floor fight. Traditionally, the assembly merely rubber-stamps the council's recommendation.

US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said she was under "standing instructions" to continue voting against Boutros-Ghali if he remains a candidate. His term ends 31 December.

The fight over the post finds the United States alone against the world and could provide a reality check of Washington's ability to control the world's agenda in the post-Cold War era.

The Clinton administration announced last spring that it would oppose Boutros-Ghali because it believes him too resistant to reforming the world body, while the overwhelming majority of the other members support the desire of African and Arab states to see the veteran Egyptian diplomat re-elected.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been campaigning across the globe for several months against a second term for Boutros-Ghali, whose election five years ago was engineered by France despite US reservations. Publicly, the Clinton administration is saying he must be replaced because he has not reformed the United Nations' wasteful hiring and spending. Privately, the administration is warning member nations that the Republican majority in Congress will slow Washington's already tardy dues payments if Boutros-Ghali does not go. The United States

owes the United Nations \$1.5 billion in back dues.

Because Boutros-Ghali is a symbol of everything that congressional conservatives dislike about the United Nations, the administration hopes that getting rid of him would encourage Congress to clear up the arrears that are the principal cause of the UN's financial crisis.

Christopher's lobbying has come to naught so far. The four other permanent members voted to reappoint Boutros-Ghali.

The Africa group of UN members holds the key to the next step. The group is still officially backing Boutros-Ghali. Sometime during the week, the group is expected to indicate whether it will stick by him or put forth other names.

As an inducement to get the Africans to drop Boutros-Ghali, Albright said the United States would give "special preference" to another African candidate. By unwritten formula, it was Africa's turn to provide a secretary-general for two terms. Much of the negotiations over a successor are going on at the capital-to-capital ministerial level.

But such assurances were not enough. Washington's campaign against Boutros-Ghali had already angered the Africans, who saw it as a threat to their having a full 10-year hold on the post. Many countries also believed that the veto threat was a ploy to neutralize GOP criticism during the election campaign and would be withdrawn once President Clinton was re-elected.

For these reasons, the United States has been unable to get other serious candidates to come forward. And, while Washington's refusal to abandon its opposition has strained its relations with other UN members, US officials have not wavered from their position, as one put it, that "Boutros-Ghali will not be secretary general on 1 January and that countries that have a stake in the UN's success must begin a serious search for other candidates."

It is not unusual for a secretary-general to choose re-election. Some have even sought a third term.

Take the case of Kurt Waldheim. In 1981, for example, a drive to re-elect him for an unprecedented third term was frustrated by repeated vetoes by China, while the United States vetoed the Chinese-backed candidate, Salim Salim of Tanzania. After 15 ballots over six weeks, both candidates withdrew, and the council settled on Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru. ■

Crash of Mars rocket a blow to Russia's space industry

By Clara Germani
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MOSCOW—The crash last Sunday of Russia's rocket to Mars was the latest sign of the humiliation that's become routine for Russia's space program.

A Russian shuttlecraft, part of a fleet that never got the funding to fly, is now an attraction for children at Gorky Park. Cosmonauts aboard the old Mir space station routinely must

wait for the homeland to afford a flight home, and just a few weeks ago they had to suffer the stench of an overflowing sewage system.

But Sunday's failure of the ambitious Russian Mars 96 mission was the most serious blow to the Russian space program since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Russian scientists watched in horror early Sunday morning as their uninsured, \$300 million spacecraft blinked off the control screens when the engine in the fourth stage booster did not

fire. The space probe, the largest interplanetary craft ever launched, bounced out of orbit and out of control after the rocket's fourth stage failed to provide enough speed.

The craft's crash into the Pacific Ocean was potentially disastrous for a program reliant on the international confidence that attracts lucrative commercial contracts.

"It has come as a terrible blow for all of us," Yuri Milov, a deputy head of the Russian Space Agency, said in Moscow. "We were pinning so many hopes on that unique mission."

At a news conference in Moscow last Monday Milov and other scientists from the project said they still don't know why the booster engine didn't fire.

The Russian space officials said they believe the craft fell into the South Pacific in two parts. The probe splashed down between 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm EST Saturday, they said. Fragments of the engine crashed separately, but in the same area and exactly 24 hours later, the Russians said.

Though the spacecraft had been designed to withstand entry into the Martian atmosphere, the US Space Command

said it could not confirm whether any pieces survived the fiery fall.

In a nation with world class scientists who go unpaid, drive cabs, or even kill themselves as in the case last month of a top nuclear researcher despondent over his finances, space technology is one of the few areas where Russia remains competitive.

So, aside from the \$300 million loss, the crash of Mars 96 darkens the prospects for the Russian space industry. With federal funding dwindling, the federal government has decided that the space program will have to become reliant on Western partners.

Though the Mars 96 probe, which would have landed on Mars in September 1997, was built completely with Russian government funds, half of the total cost of the project was borne by 22 other countries that had experiments riding on the spacecraft.

"One could argue that this was a fluke, and not at all that big a setback. There are lots of space failures all the time—a \$100 million Indonesian satellite just recently," said Glenn Schweitzer, head of the National Research Council's Eurasian department and a participant in the search for radioactive debris

from a Soviet spacecraft that fell in Canada in 1978.

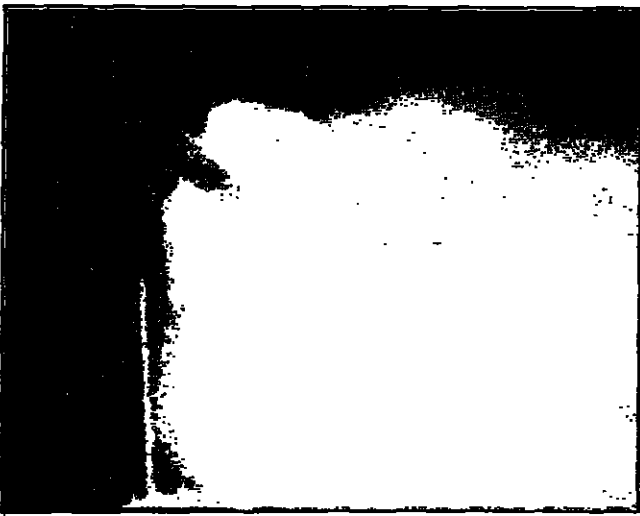
"But this was a failure up there (over Earth) and it had plutonium. If this didn't have plutonium no one would pay any attention."

It was 39 years ago this month that the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, and with it the space race with the United States.

The Soviets consistently were one step ahead of the United States—sometimes by just a matter of weeks—by launching the first animal in space, the first man in space, the first lunar fly-by, the first Venus fly-by, the first Mars fly-by, the first woman in space, the first space-walk and the first unmanned soft lunar landing.

Space was as much a scientific challenge as it was a patriotic undertaking and a geopolitical tool for both countries. Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, remains as much an icon in democratic Russia as he was a Soviet communist hero.

"Russians are still quite proud of the space program," said pollster Vladimir Andreev. They rank space exploration "of average importance" to the nation even though economic concerns are consistently the biggest worry. ■



Returning Rwandans face uncertain future, uncertain aid

By Bob Drogan and James Risen
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

NAIROBI, Kenya—As an astonishing column of Rwandan refugees silently trudged home to an uncertain future in the land they fled in chaos and panic more than two years ago, the Clinton administration signaled last Saturday that it is rethinking the size and scope of the role that US troops would play in a proposed international mercy mission in the region.

US Defense Secretary William J. Perry described the exodus of ethnic Hutus from refugee camps in Zaire—an estimated 120,000 crossed the border into Rwanda on Saturday—as a positive development that has given pause to planners in the United States and other Western nations that were poised to help stabilize the chaotic situation in the camps.

Speaking to reporters at a Pentagon briefing, Perry said no decisions have been made on whether to reduce the US role in the UN-authorized mission to help feed and protect the refugees, who were liberated from the camps after the apparent rout of Hutu extremists who had held them virtual captives.

On Friday, the UN Security Council authorized the dispatch of 10,000 to 12,000 soldiers to Central Africa on the humanitarian mission. The Clinton administration had been considering a US contingent of as many as 5,000 troops to the four-month effort.

But with the situation on the ground

changing by the hour, the Pentagon clearly is reluctant to commit a large force if it no longer is needed.

If the refugees continue to flow out of the camps, Perry said, "it will change substantially the nature of the humanitarian problem in the region. It will not eliminate the need for humanitarian support, but it will substantially change the nature of that need."

Saturday's astonishing exodus from Zaire to neighboring Rwanda brought the 30-hour total of returning refugees to more than 200,000 people, with hundreds of thousands more still tramping in eerie silence on the road behind them, according to a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The unexpected influx overwhelmed border guards and aid workers, who gave up all attempts to register or search the refugees for weapons as they quietly poured across the Rwandan border at Gisenyi. At one point, aid workers estimated that 12,000 people were crossing each hour.

"The road of death is now the road of hope," said Ray Wilkinson, a UNHCR spokesman in Gisenyi.

"The flow is unstoppable," Wilkinson said. "If we try to stop this, try to bring buses or trucks in, try to do the humanitarian thing, we'll probably make things worse. All we can do is go with the flow."

Perry said Saturday that a 40-member US survey team is in Zaire trying to determine just how much of a US presence will be required for the humanitarian mission

now. "It is possible that our plan and the allies' plan at that stage will be modified as a result of these developments," he said.

When President Clinton tentatively approved a U.S. role in the proposed humanitarian force last week, Republican lawmakers in Congress cautioned that the administration must avoid the kind of mistakes made in the humanitarian mission in Somalia. But in his weekly radio address Saturday, Clinton argued that the United States cannot disregard such overwhelming human tragedies.

"As the world's most powerful nation, we cannot turn our back when so many people, especially so many innocent children, are at mortal risk," Clinton said.

or its part, the Rwandan government said last Saturday that the mass repatriation means the rescue mission is no longer necessary and urged the United Nations to send aid to help resettle the returning refugees.

Food isn't the problem. The UN World Food Program has stockpiled enough food inside Rwanda to feed 700,000 people for 45 days, with additional supplies warehoused in nearby countries. Other aid groups also have laid in emergency provisions.

But many of the returning Hutus will find that ethnic Tutsis have occupied the homes, farms and villages they abandoned when they first fled Rwanda in mid-1994, fearing reprisals for that year's Hutu genocide of the country's Tutsi minority.

"The major issue for us is going to be

housing," said Michele Quintaglie, a WFP spokeswoman. "If you have hundreds of thousands of people suddenly coming in and wanting their houses back from people already living there, you've got a real problem."

Other crises, however, were more immediate. Two UN transit camps set up to house, feed and assist the refugees near the border quickly were inundated Saturday, and frantic aid workers encouraged everyone to keep moving inland.

The vast column was 30 miles long, an unending sea of shuffling families, clanking wheelbarrows and overstuffed bundles, stretching from Sake in Zaire to the Nkamira transit center inside Rwanda. Despite the mass movement, aid workers described an eerie calm along the road.

"It's so silent, you can almost hear a pin drop," marveled Kate Straub, a nurse-midwife from the American Refugee Committee aid group. "There's just this grand calm, with everybody just plodding along the road."

Along the road, mobile clinics administered first aid, tanker trucks provided fresh water and relief workers handed out high-protein biscuits.

But aid workers said most of the returnees appeared surprisingly healthy after weeks of being cut off from outside support and apocalyptic warnings of mass starvation and death.

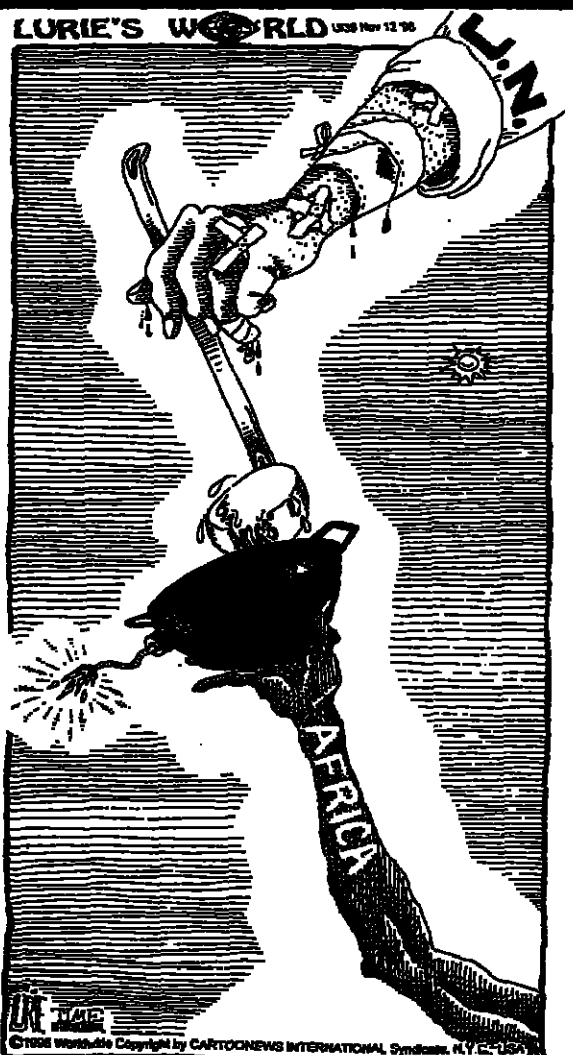
Those warnings yet may prove true because 700,000 more refugees are still inside Zaire. Tens of thousands of Zairians

also have been displaced by the rebellion.

The Hutu refugees utterly have confounded the outside world since they first fled Rwanda en masse in mid-1994, herded by the Hutu leaders and soldiers who had carried out the mass slaughter of Tutsis before fleeing a Tutsi-led guerrilla army.

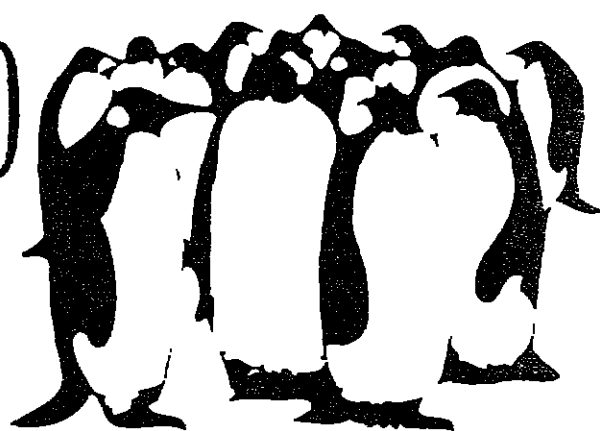
In the two years since, all attempts to lure the refugees home from Zaire ended in failure. After an initial cholera epidemic killed up to 40,000 people, the survivors sat in a string of squalid camps where the same Hutu leaders killed or threatened would-be returnees and spread propaganda that Rwanda's Tutsi-led army would slaughter any Hutu crossing the border.

The stalemate broke after a rebellion erupted by Rwanda suddenly backed in eastern Zaire last month. The insurgents routed the Zairian army, and more than 1 million refugees abandoned their camps for nearby forests as the fighting spread. ■



Deja vu

AROUND TOWN



Student delegation visits The Star

A group of 25 girl pupils from the "English Committee" in the Al Orouba Secondary School in Amman visited *The Star* on 17 November. The group, which was led by their teacher Ghada Saleh by its managing editor, Dr. Marwan Al Kassab-Bachi. The pupils proved very resourceful and asked perceptive questions about the history of the newspaper, the nature of news and the art of editing. The pupils later met members of the editorial team.



Marwan Kassab-Bachi

A restless search for identity

By Anca De Maio
Special to The Star

Frequently called "a Syrian of the Occident" and "a German of the Orient," a volunteer expatriate or "a transnational citizen," Marwan Kassab-Bachi accepts his destiny and lives the drama of his duality. Such labels as a "German expressionist" or a "European painter" is associated with his name. On the contrary, nobody in Germany considers him as a representative of German expressionism but rather as an "individual painter" who hardly fits any one category.

Einzelgänger, the German word for "the one who goes his own way," is the most proper term. Now in his early 60s, Kassab-Bachi looks back at his lifetime's work and offers the Jordanian public a retrospective exhibition in Darat Al Funun.

Thinking over Matisse's saying which states that the first painting of an artist includes the basics of his further development, Kassab-Bachi recalls his early works in Syria in 1956-57: "The daughter of Amina," "Embracing" and "The two friends." After these he moved to Berlin and the "essentials" of his craft develop into that of a great artist.

His artistic specificity is deeply rooted in the first existential experiences that marked his childhood. "My father used to take me to the land he owned at the borders between Damascus and 'Badia'. It's in this particular Arab geography that I had my first confrontation with magic: seeing the horizon was a breathtaking emotion, and the profiling of a vulgar tree or stone against it was the revelation of the 'mighty' of things. These simple objects in the horizon turned into great happenings and meaningful signs," he said. "This very early experience gave me the concentrating power to see things in an essential way," he added.

The Arab nomadic life, the purity and the verticality of a Bedouin's silhouette against an infinite background, the savagery and sensuality of his relation with earth, rain, animals and nature infused his artistic subconscious with primary energies that keep the process of creation on.

Kassab-Bachi's inherent "expressionism" coincides with what he calls "existentialism" or his "position in the world." The expressionist style can be traced back to his Syrian period of creation, originating from his tumultuous individualistic nature. The taste for exaggeration and disproportion in *The Bath*, the impulse of "touching the world with lust" in *The two friends*, the almost erotic attraction to the "essence" of things are all crystallized in his pre-German works. "I brought these things with me from Damascus together with the dream to embrace the world—to cry, to laugh and to die," he said.



Adopting a radical Bedouin decision of "life or death," Kassab-Bachi makes no compromise in art. "My art is not pseudo-avant-gardist, bourgeois, beautiful or touching. It is radical," he said. It is a perpetual challenge to aesthetics, to the public's feelings and prejudices and to one's self. There is no such thing as "flirting with the eye" in his paintings. Their tonality is grave throughout their history as a result of the creator's conviction that "art is heavy, black and non-comprehensive."

"You try to understand art and when you get the feeling that you have made it out, actually you haven't." That accounts for Kassab-Bachi's determination to continue the restless search for the truth.

His artistic evolution follows a cognitive spiral movement. The periods of his creation can't be reduced to simply variations on such themes as isolated human figures in an empty and hostile universe (1966-70), landscape, human heads of overwhelming cosmic dimensions, wavering puppets (1970-early 80s) and monumental faces in a reversible metamorphosis (1980-present day). He abandons one theme only after having drained out all its meanings. The repetition is obsessive but not redundant. In fact it represents the penetrating mechanism of the artist's quest into the substantiality of the world.

He genetically inherited the sophism and mysticism of the Orient. His creations have an esoteric dimension in themselves. "It is a sort of a Dervish dance ecstasy that liberates me of earthly heaviness and elevates me to hieratic spheres like a trance dancer. The flow of creative electricity possesses and makes me reiterate fundamental gestures of Arab calligraphy—meaningful right-to-left hand movements." The verticality of the Arabic letter "u" can be read in the body shape of his

previous elongated solitary characters as well as in the series of more recent "winged" narrow faces.

The spiritual vibration is artistically expressed by abundant pulsating fleshy colors such as red, brown, purple, beige, orange contrasting with black or white stains. The composition is a coherent dialogue of forms and colors despite the lack of evident outlines. Energetic, short brush strokes are charged with the intensity of pointillism. The artist's latest "face" paintings illustrate his mastery of composition where fragmented lines are integral parts of the whole structure.

Kassab-Bachi's destiny was to live and create far from home. A man of no compromise, he converted his "homesickness" and difficult adjustment to his new environment into serious radical art. He is convinced that his success in Europe has some non-comprehensive mystic explanation. "I lived like a monk in my studio and God made me famous." Sixty-five of his works are part of the permanent collection of Modern Art Museum of Berlin. He has displayed his works in almost 80 solo exhibitions in Germany, France, Italy, Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

Abd Al Rahman Munif

A journey through visual art

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

Just as James Joyce was said to be Europe's most prominent novelist, the Arab novelist Abd Al Rahman Munif is stunning Arab readers with his creative writings. When Munif, the creator of the acclaimed novel *The Cities of Salt*, came to Amman last year, he was received by a multitude of people who were only too eager to listen to him. He talked about his journey in the world of the novel and the memories of his childhood in Amman.

Munif is currently visiting Amman accompanied with a perspective on art. He just finished a book entitled *The Journey of Art and Life*, in which he sheds light on the artistic experience of the Syrian artist Marwan Kassab-Bachi. The two are invited by Darat al Funun of Abd Al Hameed Shoman Foundation.

Munif decided to penetrate the world of visual art because of the interrelated nature of writing and painting. He tells *The Star* that his experience with Kassab-Bachi stems from his belief that there should be a dialogue between these different forms of art. As a writer, he believes that the novel as an art provides a larger space for different kinds of expression. "I decided that I should accompany Kassab-Bachi on his journey to have a closer look into the visual art scene," he adds.

The structure of Kassab-Bachi's creations stirred Munif's memory. It was then that he decided to go on a journey through the color, form and spirit of Kassab-Bachi's paintings. *The Journey of Art and Life* is a book that attempts "to view art from the perspective of someone who only deals with art through words."

Munif says that the book aims at introducing readers to the different worlds created by plastic art and to broaden their vision. "I'm working to set a new vision towards art in the Arab countries and open new horizons for the Arab plastic art movement," he said.

A creative writer is able to employ the memories of his childhood in his novels. Munif, in his book about Amman entitled *A City's Biography*, succeeds in depicting the setting where he saw the first light in his life. He takes us on a journey that shows how Amman used to be a city bustling with life. He said that "because people now-a-days are detached from the history of their city, I tried in my book to reintroduce the pulse of the then small, fledgling city." He argues that the gap between the new generation and his past can be bridged if there has been a documentation of Amman's historical evolution through films or books.

The setting constitutes a major element in the structure of the novel. It accounts for the psychology of the characters and



Munif

directs their movement throughout the novel. This is evident, for example, in the impact of the desert on people's mentality in his *Cities of Salt*. Munif said that the place of childhood affects the novelist's choice of the topics he wants to deal with. He adds that if the painter can build a setting by his colors and lines then the writer can convert these details in his "laboratory" into a different type of vision.

Photo exhibit rattles our consciousness

By Star Staff Writer

BLOWING YOUR brains out might be just an expression. But the latest photo exhibition at the Shoman Foundation, which ends today, Thursday, is a clear demonstration of turning such a term into reality. It is about the terror imposed by the Israeli army.

Mind-boggling as it may seem, the 61-

picture exhibit by Khalid Zighari is a cruel testimony to the enduring occupation which the Palestinians are subjected to.

The pictures taken by a photojournalist for Reuters are a graphic description of what people are going through. They are just a selection of Al Zighari's works over a two-year period between 1994 to September 1996.

The exhibition is a living history of towns and cities experiencing the naked and cruel side of human aggression. We are introduced to Jerusalem, Ramallah, Al Bireh, Nablus, Gaza, and Hebron.

What is glaring is the violent side of the exhibition. There are specific pictures which are designed to rattle our consciousness. Because of their horror, they are symbolically covered with the Palestinian flag.

We see a picture taken just last September of a dead man with his skull broken and his brain flowing out of his head. The description is less traumatizing, but people must see the

picture to believe it, the camera does not lie. The picture was taken just four days after the tunnel under Al Aqsa Mosque was opened.

In another picture we see splattered brains and bullets on steps in Hebron. In yet another picture we see a man pierced with bullet holes in the chest.

In between the horrors of violence, we are introduced to the almost poignancy of the whole tragic situation. In one moving picture we see a Palestinian child, who could not have been more than four years old, standing between two soldiers who are getting ready to blow up his parents' house in Al Aswiyah near Jerusalem. What is graphic about this picture is that we only see the green trouser legs of the two soldiers with their weapons and their hi-tech gadgets.

The picture quite simply portrays the meek against the strong, and the pliant against the mighty.

What is distinctive about the exhibit is the total callousness and disregard of the human aspect of the tragedy. It is soldiers against people, against innocent flesh, sense and perception. This is summed up by a picture of a soldier sitting casually in Jerusalem with an inscription written on his back "Born to Kill."

New cosmetics line by Lancome Paris

By Manal Omar
Special to The Star

TWICE A year Lancome Paris introduces a new line of cosmetics for women to match the seasons. This year Abu Shakra added a little finesse to launch Lancome's Autumn/Winter selection in Jordan. Cosmetic expert Nicole Freeman spent a week in Jordan on her tour of the Middle East to introduce the new line.

In a presentation organized by Abu Shakra at the Marriott Hotel, she demonstrated a full make-over in front of the audience.

"I was surprised at the number of appointments we ended up having," Freeman tells *The Star*. "The majority of women I address are looking for quick, easy make-up. They are usually busy women who don't have hours to spend in the mornings," she continues. Basic elements of make-up can completely change a woman's make-up style. She explains that 99 percent of women who are unhappy with their make-up is a result of their lipstick.

Freeman points out that many make-up fallacies lead women to be misled about what is best for their appearance. The most crucial element in taking care of the face is skin care. "Many women tend to think that washing their face once a day is enough," she says.

The Lancome skin treatment includes three steps: cleanse, tone, and moisturize. The dreaded masks for most women each night, are a thing of the past. Lancome introduces a new three minute mask, that will make skin treatment easier then ever.

According to the expert, make-up is each woman's personal choice. "It is meant to be applied without notice," she explains. Freeman said that the private settings that an individual may attend will provide them with the basics which will last with them a lifetime. She told women of the new fashion in Paris, which is to emphasize the bigness and darkness of the eyes, along with light, natural lipstick. "Get a good set of brushes. It is the easiest thing for women to forget, but, perhaps, the most crucial element of make-up." Starting 1997, a representative from Lancome will visit Jordan twice a year to introduce the new cosmetic line and to make sure their customers are receiving the personal attention they deserve.



Freeman

| AGENDA | |
|--|---|
| Exhibitions | Funun, continues till 10 December. |
| ■ <i>Hond and Hammer</i> , at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, continues till 30 November. | Films |
| ■ <i>Doublet Regards</i> by Basma Asfour, at the French Cultural Center, continues till 28 November. | ■ <i>Chère Inconnue</i> at the French Cultural Center, 25 November at 8:30 pm. |
| ■ Exhibition and Sale of lithographs, old postcards and photographs on Jerusalem, Chinese paintings, at Um El Kundum, right off the Airport highway on the way to the Arabian Horse Club, first left at the top of the hill, Friday 22 November from 11 am till 5 pm. Tel: 664805. | ■ <i>Mask</i> at the British Council, 26 November at 5:00 pm. |
| ■ Works by Marwan Kassab-Bachi at the Darat Al | ■ <i>Dave</i> at the American Cultural Center, today at 5:00 pm. |
| | Concert |
| | ■ European Union Chamber Orchestra at Al Hassan Auditorium at the University of Jordan, 24 November at 7:30 pm. |

SCRAPBOOK

By Osama El-Sherif

From rags to riches

LOCAL PAPERS reported this week that Irbid police arrested a beggar with JD 1500 on him. And after some investigation, they discovered that he had a JD 40,000 bank account. The head of Social Development Department in Irbid said the beggar, who has no family, will be put on trial and that this proves that most cases of solicitation were not related to poverty or need but that begging was a sort of an illegal profession.

Is that all? I was not satisfied with the explanation and decided to head to Irbid to get the story from the horse's mouth. There I used my reporter's wit to get into the jail cell where the rich beggar was being held and after some persuasion was able to get an exclusive interview with him.

"You were caught with over JD 1500 on you and later it was found out that you have JD 40,000 in your bank account... what's the story?"

"Well, if they hadn't interfered, I would have had time to conclude my business here."

"Business?"

"Yes. You see I am a businessman, not a beggar as they claim."

"What sort of business are you in?"

"The sort that makes money."

"But they say you made a fortune from begging and that you were neither poor nor hungry."

"That's not the whole story. I had a legitimate business in the United States until it went bankrupt."

"Really. And then what happened?"

"Nothing. I was chased out of the States by banks and loan sharks and decided to return to my country to collect myself."

"But how did you manage to make such money from begging?"

"You heard the head of social development department say that begging is a profession."

"An illegal one."

"I fail to see how. People gave me money willingly. It was for a good cause. I consider them shareholders in my future business venture. They will receive dividends for having put me again on my feet."

"But people gave you money out of charity. Surely you didn't tell people that you were a businessman and that their alms will be returned to them one day."

"No. That would be illegal you see. I would have had to register a public shareholding company and that takes time. You know how *run* tape chases investors away."

"So you are an investor."

"You can call me that."

"How much money were you planning to make on the streets?"

"Another JD 40,000 and that would have set me up in Wall Street again."

"And now what?"

"Well my US lawyer is flying in tomorrow. I have a good case he tells me."

"A US lawyer. That will cost you an arm and a leg."

"In the business world a good lawyer is never too expensive."

"Well, good luck."

"Thank you. By the way would you like to make a contribution to a good cause?"

"Sure, here is one dinar." ■

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Well, sorry about this, Mrs. Murdoch, but old Roy and I got to arguin' politics, and dang if he didn't say some things that got my adrenalin flowin'."



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to digest
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NOVEMBER 1996
A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

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ON FIVE CONTINENTS



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Apocalypse now is good for fundraising

Green movement rains on its own parade

By Alston Chase

WHEN THE GODS wish to punish us, they answer our prayers. This remark, by British playwright Oscar Wilde in 1895, carries sobering implications for environmentalists, as the US presidential elections approach this fall. For in November they may get their wish: the reelection of President Bill Clinton.

At present, all signs suggest that Clinton, a Democrat whose record the League of Conservation Voters described as "one of the best of any president," will win a second term in office. And if the past is any guide, this means greens are headed for trouble.

Like the Russians at Stalingrad and England after Dunkirk, environmentalists fare best in adversity. Their lobbying and fundraising depend on convincing the public that only they can thwart corporate polluters and avert ecological catastrophe. And these claims seem most persuasive when people believe the movement is threatened.

When liberals are in power, folks feel the earth is safe and activist organizations suffer declines in money and membership. But when conservatives gain the upper hand, people are persuaded that only generous support of environmentalism will avert ecological collapse.

Thus, the golden years of green growth occurred during the environmentally hostile Reagan years. By portraying Reagan and his Interior Secretary James Watt as enemies of nature the movement prospered. The National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation and Sierra Club, formerly small and amateurish, came to resemble the government bureaucracies they were dedicated to fighting. Greenpeace membership doubled every two years.

But this didn't last. In 1988, self-styled "environmentally friendly" George Bush became president and the increase abruptly stopped. Some outfits, such as the National Wildlife Federation, were forced to lay off staffers.

This depression deepened after Clinton ascended to the presidency in 1993. The public, no longer perceiving greens as underdogs, forgot the movement. Congressional Republicans, while still in the minority, launched successful efforts to modify environmental legislation. They thwarted Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's requested authorization for a National

Environmental problems, from acid rain to deforestation, abound. But great strides have been made in recent years—something that is not obvious if you listen to many environmental groups. For them, clouds have no silver lining; they always indicate air pollution. This addiction to bad news, however, may end up damaging the environment these groups are trying to protect. Many voters, finding that things aren't as bad as advertised, are beginning to think that all environmental threats are being exaggerated



Phoenix from the ashes or angel of death? Critics of the "green" movement say that its tendency to portray environmental problems in strident, pessimistic terms has created a climate of public skepticism and prompted governments to take short-term, poll-driven actions rather than fashioning effective, long-term policies

Biological Survey. They inserted property rights protections into numerous preservation bills. They slowed, but didn't stop, appropriations for new national parks and wilderness.

But as luck would have it, the greens lost an election so their fortunes revived. The Republican Congressional landslide of 1994 made them Cinderellas again, and growth resumed.

And Republicans, not realizing that an activist cornered is like a badger at bay, played right into their hands.

Flush with victory, the GOP Congress promised wholesale restructuring of pollution and preservation laws. It imposed a moratorium on listing endangered species and began hearings on changing the Endangered Species Act. But rather than offering carefully

wrought reforms, Republicans merely presented ad hoc proposals to protect property rights and save jobs. To many, their agenda seemed a shill for special interests.

Environmental lobbyists quickly exploited this opening. In a well-funded campaign, they warned Americans that "the new majority in Congress is teaming up with the special

interests to roll back 25 years of environmental progress."

This ploy worked. The GOP steamroller was stopped in its tracks. The endangered species listing moratorium was lifted and Endangered Species Act reform stalled. Environmentalists, therefore, should dread another Clinton victory.

But even if its political fortunes de-

cline, one shouldn't shed tears for the movement. For its effect on national policy is like a ratchet: what it gains during peaks in popularity is seldom lost during the dips. Environmentalism's ideology—sometimes called "biocentrism"—remains a growing cultural force regardless of the vagaries of politics, while its agenda has been woven into the fabric of American life and law.

Federally subsidized "environmental education" is taught in schools. Enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, once limited to public lands, is progressively applied to private property as well. Federal environmental research has become a Colliath industry, threatening the integrity of science. And the government, already owning a third of US real estate, continues to nationalize land for conservation purposes at a staggering clip.

And even when green groups do poorly in the polls, they continue to do well at the bank. Since 1988, 2,200 private foundations have made 36,000 grants to environmental groups. The top 600 of these philanthropies have assets totaling more than US\$70 billion and give more than \$425 million each year. In 1994, business corporations gave \$27 million to environmental organizations.

The combined annual income of the top 10 groups exceeds \$650 million, and much of this money comes from taxpayers through federal grants, court awards and other streams. In 1993, the World Wildlife Fund received more than \$7 million from federal sources. In 1994, the Nature Conservancy's public take exceeded \$28 million. Also in 1994, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund was compensated \$1,005,000 for its work on just one of its many court cases involving the listing of northern spotted owl as an endangered species.

Hence, America's future continues to look verdant, regardless of the outcome of the election this month. And this is not altogether good news. As the movement grows, it becomes more bureaucratic, more political and less committed to its original mission. Increasingly centered in Washington, it is losing touch with real ecological issues and their solutions.

But that's another story. ☼

ALSTON CHASE WRITES A SYNDICATED COLUMN ON THE ENVIRONMENT. HIS MOST RECENT BOOK IS *In a Dark Wood: the Fight over Forests and Rising Tyranny of Ecology*.

Dying forests fuel heated debate

Germans look at their environment through smoke and (car) mirrors

By Thomas Wiegold

WHEN I WAS a child, I used to pick apples from the tree in my grandfather's garden. Nothing wrong with that, except that a black grease coated the fruit. It was soot from a steel mill just across our street in the Ruhr Valley.

At that time, the Ruhr was the most heavily industrialized area of what was then West Germany. Politicians who promised "a blue sky above the River Ruhr"—and some did in those days—were laughed off the stump.

Decades later, nobody's laughing about the environment. Not only is the sky above the Ruhr blue on a nice day, but I also dare to eat smoked eel from the Rhine, a river once considered the sewer of Western Europe.

For some, such as the Christian

Democratic politicians who have led Germany for the past 14 years, the soot-free apples and chemical-free eel of today are concrete evidence

that the environmental protection efforts of recent years are making things better.

But others, such as the lobbying group Greenpeace, maintain that despite making superficial cleanups of pollution, US and European societies are leading the world ever closer to ecological collapse. Behind the good news, they say, is the continued reliance on carbon dioxide-producing fossil fuels and a relentless rate of industrial growth.

These utterly polarized positions concerning the state of the earth have surfaced recently in a debate in German newspapers over the phenomenon of "Waldsterben," or dying forests.

For more than 10 years, Waldsterben has been a nearly undisputed fact in Germany—trees dying of acid rain, caused by pollution created mainly by heavy industries and automobile engines. The damage to the forests reached deeply into the German soul, for the woodlands of central Europe—espe-

cially the Black Forest—have been the focal point of German myths and tales for centuries. "The tree dies first, then man dies," ran a common slogan. The introduction of catalytic converters for passenger cars and lead-free gasoline were the direct result of the fears that roiled the nation.

Imagine the uproar when Professor Heinrich Spiecker, a scientist at the University of Freiburg in southern Germany, published a report this summer that states there is no proven connection between pollution and growth of German forests. His arguments, published in July by the US-based *Washington Post*, made him the scapegoat for everyone sure that science and politics, in an unholy alliance, have blind spots for everything that might damage the environment.

Waldsterben means "a horror in the woods," analyzed Munich's respected

daily newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. It is compiled of hysteria, hate of civilization and a lust of destruction, wrote Burkhard Mueller-Ulrich. "The bottom line is: We did harm nature, and now it's striking back." The scientists broke a taboo—and the reaction shows that, in public perception "the dying of forests is an undying story," Mueller-Ulrich editorialized.

In the same paper a week later, others disagreed. Even if Spiecker's finding should be correct, there is no reason to scale back the efforts to save the woods, columnist Christian Schuetz, the paper's environmental affairs editor, replied. "If you're wrong with your worries about the forests, that would mean no harm. But danger will arise if you believe the quacks who try to portray the

woods healthy."

The dispute had to take a back seat to fierce discussions about social cuts in Germany in recent weeks, but still might be crucial for the outcome of German environmental behavior. It resonates in a country whose population is willing to go a long way to meet environmental demands.

Germans, for example, have responded with fanatical devotion to calls for recycling. In a typical German household there is not one dustbin, there are five of them. Paper and cardboard boxes are collected for recycling. The same applies to plastic packing or wrapping, from yogurt containers to shopping bags. Grocery leftovers are for the "bio bin," while empty bottles are collected in special

Germans have a split perception of environmental issues. Despite widespread outrage about their dying forests, the use of cars has been growing in recent years

China opts to protect the human environment

Three Gorges holds back flood of criticism

By Crocker Snow Jr.

A FRIEND OF MINE from Singapore and his Shanghai-born wife are planning their first vacation in several years, a three-week trip down the Yangtze River. It is their first encounter with this great river after a lifetime of living in Asia. "We want to be some of the last to see the Yangtze in its full natural bloom," they say. "It's probably never going to be quite the same again."

This thought, expressed so pitifully by the vacationers, is rampant among the ecologically aware of the world. It has taken root as the first stages of what is the largest water control project in the world get underway early next year, following eight years of preparatory earth moving, cement pouring, building, relocating of farming communities—and extensive international recrimination.

This project, the Three Gorges dam, has world class engineering, environmental and economic proportions. And ramifications. The protests and alarms from environmentalists the world over notwithstanding, changing the flow of the world's third-longest river to slake the hydroelectric appetites of an economy in overdrive is not necessarily the world's biggest environmental blunder. Truth be told, the dam also has a distinct environmental upside for much of China's overpopulated central and southern provinces.

The politically incorrect question on the table is whether a project that has attracted almost obsessive

First conceived in the Mao years, Three Gorges is a massive, almost arrogant, engineering undertaking in the grand tradition of the Soviet-built Aswan High Dam in Egypt. Uproot the land, pour the concrete, make it happen. But this time, there are no international, strategic Cold War advantages to be gained—the only benefit, according to the Chinese leadership, is an improved life for millions of China's people.

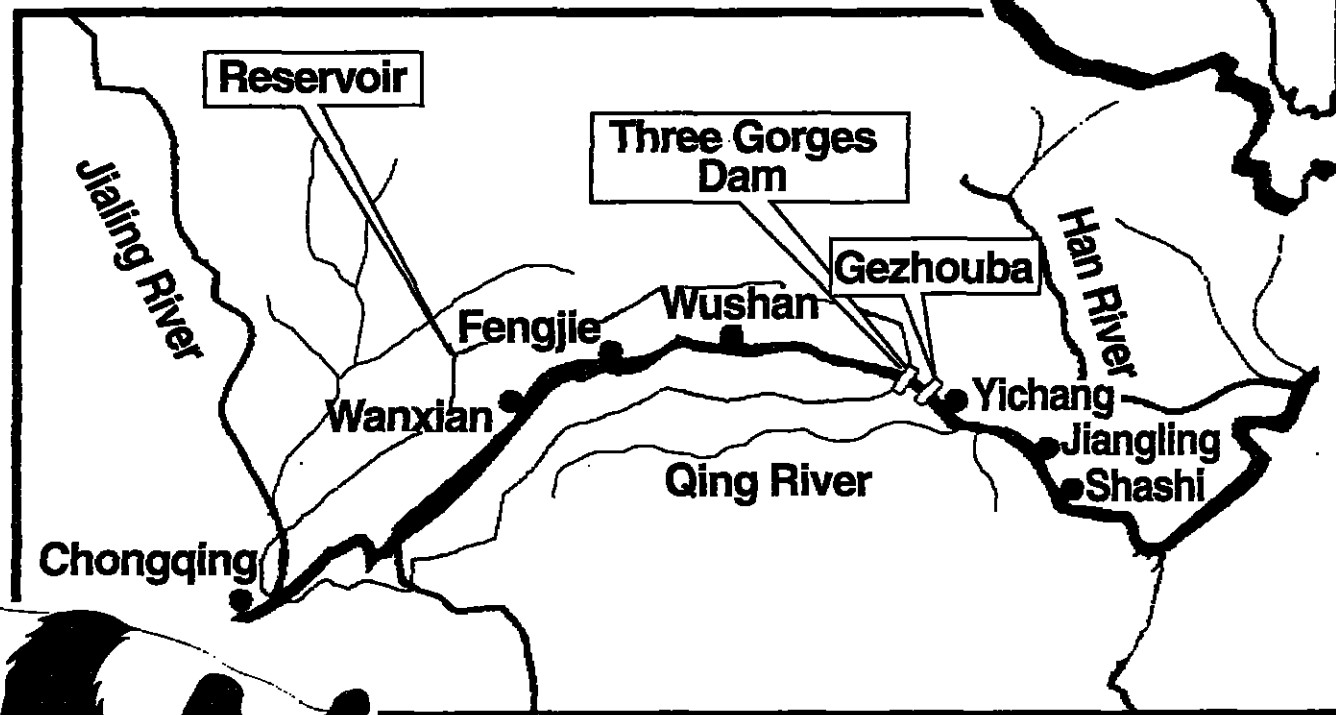
Centered in Hubei Province, the project involves damming the Yangtze to create a 600 square kilometer reservoir capable of holding 22 billion cu-

movement have tried to make common cause. As recently as May, 250 Chinese protesters were arrested for demonstrating and for following the international environmental party line. For the Chinese party line, sanctioned by prime minister Li Peng, is from the top down "damn the (public relations) torpedoes and full speed ahead."

The international environmentalists have inhibited the World Bank and discouraged the involvement of American, German, French and Japanese building, engineering and construction firms. So the Chinese have proudly ponied up more than 80 percent of the estimated US\$30 billion construction costs.

qualified themselves. Ontario Hydro, the world's fourth largest hydroelectric power generator, with consulting and building projects in a number of developing countries, backed off long ago. Four years ago,

nese drowned and one million displaced at an estimated cost to the Chinese of \$9 billion. It wasn't an aberration either. Spring floods in 1991 and 1994 caused almost equal damage to life, limb and



FACT BOX

If completed, the US\$30 billion Three Gorges dam will be the largest hydroelectric project ever undertaken. In addition to generating electricity, China expects the dam will improve navigation and help control flooding.

- The dam will submerge: An estimated 150,000 acres, 160 towns and 1,500 factories
- The dam will displace: Approximately 1.3 million people
- When the Yangtze floods: Human casualties have exceeded 3.7 million people (1931). This year, 3,000 died
- Three Gorges will generate: Up to 18,000 megawatts daily



opprobrium from environmentalists is, in the final analysis, going to have more positive environmental impact by controlling the flooding that has ravaged southern provinces in recent years. These floods have washed out vast areas and villages, exacting a human toll that must be weighed against the adverse impact on traditional land and water balances that opponents of the dam predict and insist upon.

Three Gorges is arguably the largest engineering project of any kind underway anywhere in the world today, rivaled only by the construction of the new Hong Kong airport on Lantau island. Though only 750 miles apart, the two are designed to assist opposite ends of the human spectrum.

bic meters of water. That water will, in turn, power 26 huge generators producing 85 million megawatt hours of electricity annually. But, on the other side of the ledger, a million Chinese residents are due for relocation. Many historic temples that survived the rampage of the Great Cultural Revolution will disappear during the 15 years it will take to complete the dam.

The international community has bridled about Three Gorges for years. Environmental groups, like Greenpeace, International Rivers Network and, most recently, Probe International, a Canadian environmental investigative organization, have come out four square against it. China's existing environmental and nascent dissident

With this kind of treasure involved, some international firms are belatedly trying to get their fingers in the dam. Just a year ago, three American companies appeared at a closed Congressional hearing seeking US Export Import Bank subsidies for their attempts to win subcontracts with the project. The companies, Caterpillar, Voith Hydro and Rotec, argued that the conclusions of a year-long study by the President's National Security Council against the project represented "biased recommendations arrived at by a flawed process."

That the Three Gorges project attracted the attention of the National Security Council in the first place is evidence of its more than economic and environmental import. The issues remain stalled. Most high-profile international companies have dis-

the company's then-chairman Maurice Strong, a staunch sustainable development advocate who was secretary general of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, informed the Chinese leadership that Ontario Hydro would respectfully decline any involvement. Many others followed suit.

But the unanimity and communication skills of environmental NGOs notwithstanding, the frequency and ravages of spring floods in China's central and southern provinces justifies a serious rethinking of the project's value.

This year's floods were regarded as the worst since 1931 that killed 3.7 million peasants. This year eight provinces that account for more than 60 percent of China's entire rice production were adversely affected. An estimated 3,000 Chi-

The disastrous flooding, exacerbated by the filling of lakes to provide more paddy land and the loss of trees along the banks of the Yangtze, will come to an end only when the concrete is poured, the dam is complete and the river permanently rerouted

China's pursuit of self-reliant happiness.

In the wake of these floods, China's leadership has gone from the defensive to the offensive, aggressively arguing that the Three Gorges is an environmental necessity. The vice-minister in charge of the project, Wei Tingchang, now declares that the disastrous flooding, exacerbated by the filling of lakes to provide more paddy land and the loss of trees on the banks of the Yangtze, will come to an end only when the concrete is poured, the dam is complete and the river permanently rerouted.

The spring flood waters have long abated. Tourists are planning their last trips on the virgin Yangtze, and the argument about the Three Gorges dam is turning into an internecine feud over the definition of environmental good. ☐

CROCKER SNOW JR. IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *The World Paper*.

SMOKE AND MIRRORS

Continued from page 1

containers in the streets. Especially damaging waste like dry batteries, considered to be toxic, will find its way to collection centers. That leaves a pretty small bin for "garbage"—everything which won't fit in the other categories.

But while Germans have become world champions in garbage separation, a growing number of voices are claiming it's a waste of time. Why separate all the garbage, goes the impish popular wisdom, when everything will be dumped or burnt anyway?

Although there is little proof, critics do have a point. The recycling of plastic packing, done voluntarily by the industry, did not bring a large reduction of packing material in general. And "recycling" is a broad term when it is not limited to re-using material but also includes burning—known in environmental "double-speak" as thermo utilization.

All this might explain why Germans have a split perception of environmental issues. Despite widespread outrage about their dying forests, the use of cars has been growing in recent years. Germans were the first to boycott Shell gas stations when Greenpeace staged the protest against the dumping of the Brent Spar oil-drilling platform in the North Sea—but luckily they had a wide choice of other outlets where they could fill up.

Maybe Germans aren't really as environmentally conscious as they think they are. It may be easy to separate your garbage—easier than, say, buying products, for a higher price, which come wrapped in paper rather than in plastic. The policies generated by environmental fear all too often seem to have an escape hatch.

A decade or more of angry protests against nuclear energy has led to growing public opposition to nuclear power in Germany. But as one state's experience shows, opposition doesn't easily translate into action when environmental consciousness threatens the comforts of modern life.

The northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein has been governed since 1988 by a Social Democratic government committed to abolishing nuclear power plants. But guess which of the country's 16 federal states uses the highest percentage of nuclear power to meet its electrical energy needs? That's right—Schleswig-Holstein. ☐

THOMAS WEIGOLD IS A BONN-BASED FREE-LANCE WRITER.

THE WORLD PAPER

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The Fletcher School of Law and DiplomacyProfessor of International Information and Communication
&
Director, The Edward R. Murrow Center

The Fletcher School, the oldest graduate school of international affairs in the USA, seeks a full-time, tenure track professor in the field of international information and communication, beginning September 1997. Candidates should possess a Ph.D. or equivalent, and have an established record of scholarship, with strong teaching, research and mentoring skills. We are a multidisciplinary school, and applicants may have a background in one of several different disciplines relevant to our curriculum. Applicants should have a firm theoretical understanding of the information and communication field, and demonstrate an ability to teach core courses concerned with global communication structures, organizations, policies, technologies, and the business, economic, legal, political and social impact of these developments. Practical and managerial experience is desirable since The Murrow Center sponsors professional workshops, conferences and media presentations, and conducts research in international communications, public diplomacy, international journalism, and telecommunications policy. Review of applications will begin January 1, 1997. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, CV, the names of three references and any supporting materials to:

Associate Dean Maria S. Judge
IIC Search Committee
The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
Tufts University
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The Fletcher School is an EO/AA employer, encouraging applications from women and members of minority groups.



European Union Chamber Orchestra performs in Amman

UNDER THE Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the European Union Chamber Orchestra (EUCO) will be performing at the Prince Hassan Auditorium of the University of Jordan next Sunday 24 November at 19:30 pm.

The renowned Jordanian pianist Ms Rula Nabeel will also participate. She performed at the EUCO fund raising concert of the Purcell Anniversary Fund at Windsor Castle in the United Kingdom earlier this year.

The concert Program includes pieces by Mozart, Haydn, Liszt and Boccherini.

Tickets will be 5 JD for the general public and 3 JD for students.

EUCO performs around 70 concerts annually worldwide in major halls such as the Palais de Beaux Arts in Brussels and the Vienna Musikverein. In the second half of 1995 EUCO concerts included the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, major festivals in Germany, Denmark, Norway, Belgium and the UK as well as Mexico and live concerts in the Middle East. This year EUCO toured Germany twice and also performed in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.



Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149): Quick & The Dead
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149): Mission Impossible
- Plaza (Tel: 699238): The Rock
- Concord I (Tel: 677420): Independence Day
- Concord II (Tel: 677420): Braveheart

The Star's GUIDE TV

Programs on JTV from 23-29 November

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Adventures of Mickey and Donald
- 2:30—Cirque
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—Gillette (Sports)
- 4:30—Chris Cross
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Futures (Educational)
- 5:15—Blue Heelers
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Something Wilder
- 8:01—Documentary
- 8:30—Prism
- 9:10—Lois and Clark
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Children of the Dust (Best Seller)
- 11:15—Classic Movie: Yes Giorgio, starring Luciano Pavarotti and Kathryn Harrold

SUNDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Futurama American Tails
- 2:30—You Bet Your Life
- 3:00—French Programs
- 4:00—World Echo (Doc)
- 4:30—The Famous Five
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Documentary
- 5:15—Search and Rescue
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
- 8:00—Auto Classics
- 8:30—Album Show
- 9:10—Great Books

MONDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Dad's Army
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—Nature's Inventions
- 4:30—Hey Dad
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:30—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Rosanne
- 8:01—Disaster Chronicle (Doc)
- 8:30—Cineza, Cinema, Cinema
- 9:10—The Lazarus Man
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Children of the Dust
- 11:15—Bodies of Evidence

TUESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Budge (Cartoon)
- 2:25—Oscar's Orchestra
- 2:40—I Love Lucy
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—AI: The Zoo
- 4:30—My Secret Identity
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Fun with Physics
- 5:15—Road to Avonlea
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Murphy Brown
- 8:00—Magazine Zero-One
- 8:30—Encounter
- 9:10—Star Trek
- 10:00—News at Ten



Album Show, Sunday at 8:30 pm

- 10:25—China Beach
- 11:15—Mission Impossible
- 12:00—Are You Being Served

WEDNESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Cirque
- 3:00—French Programs
- 4:00—Earth Revealed
- 4:30—Blizzard Island
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—The Adventurers + Kelly
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—The Four Seasons
- 8:00—Super Stars of Action
- 8:30—Challenges
- 9:10—NBA
- 10:25—Kung Fu
- 11:15—Hart to Hart
- 12:00—Who's the Boss

THURSDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris
- 2:15—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Playabout + Flintstones
- 3:00—See How They Grow
- 3:15—French Programs
- 4:00—Crystal Maze
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Name Your Adventure
- 5:30—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Blossom
- 8:00—Secret Weapons
- 8:30—Hunter

FRIDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris
- 2:15—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Playabout + Flintstones
- 3:00—See How They Grow
- 3:15—French Programs
- 4:00—Crystal Maze
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Name Your Adventure
- 5:30—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Blossom
- 8:00—Secret Weapons
- 8:30—Hunter

9:10—VR.5, The Virtual Reality (Science Fiction)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: Blood Relation, starring: Andre Lachapelle and Mario Saint Amand.

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

- 3:00—Documentaire La France aux 1000 villages
- 3:30—Emission jeunesse Fête des bêtes
- 6:00—Série Jack
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine Ziva

DIMANCHE

- 3:00—Emission jeunesse Cajo
- 3:30—Divertissement Week-ends spéciaux Les négatives vertes
- 6:00—Magazine Faut pas rêver
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine Sports et musique

LUNDI

- 3:00—Variétés L'intégrale Stéphane Eicher
- 3:30—Documentaire Travelling gourmet
- 6:00—Magazine Cassiopee
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

- 3:00—Dessins animés
- 3:15—Magazine Montagne
- 5:30—Série Haute surveillance
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Celebs...



● Hollywood star Goldie Hawn looks nimble at fifty at the premier of The First Wives Club in London.

Video releases

"THE CROW: CITY OF ANGELS" (Dimension, \$100.71): Though this sequel obviously doesn't feature Brandon Lee, who was killed in an on-set accident during the making of the original film, it has much the same spirit... namely, a very dark one. Vincent Perez plays another slain man mystically restored to life to avenge his killing by drug dealers; Mia Kirshner and music's Iggy Pop also are in the melodramatic cast. (R; AS, P, V)

"EAST OF EDEN" (Warner, \$19.98): Though it only took part of the John Steinbeck novel into account, director Elia Kazan's 1955 drama — newly remastered — is rightfully regarded as a classic, thanks largely to James Dean's riveting performance as a troubled young man competing with his brother for their father's (Raymond Massey) affection. Co-star Jo Van Fleet earned an Oscar; Julie Harris also appears. (Not rated; P, V)

COMING SOON: "THE ROCK" (Hollywood, Dec. 10): Sean Connery plays a convict teamed with a federal agent (Nicolas Cage) to stop a renegade's planned attack on San Francisco. (R)

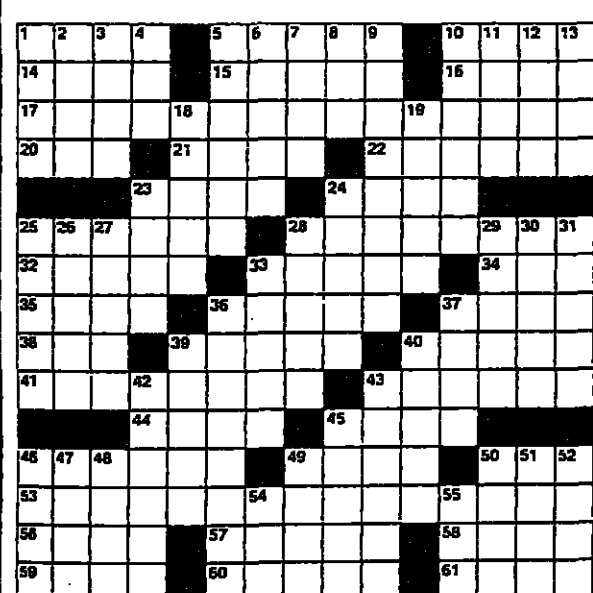
"CHAIN REACTION" (Fox, Dec. 17): Keanu Reeves plays a student whose discovery of converting water into gas makes him a target; Morgan Freeman also stars. (PG-13)

"THE FRIGHTENERS" (MCA/Universal, Dec. 17): Michael J. Fox plays a con artist who gets otherworldly help from poltergeists as he fleeces believing clients. (R)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1 Iron hook for landing fish
 - 5 Flavourful
 - 10 Ngāmenā's land
 - 14 European capital
 - 15 Stage whisper
 - 16 Crest
 - 17 Start of a thought about cranes
 - 20 Evil spell
 - 21 Joy
 - 22 Tantal
 - 23 Jog
 - 24 Bhauac
 - 25 Not so fast
 - 28 Craftsman
 - 32 Songbird
 - 33 Red as —
 - 34 Large vessel for liquids
 - 35 To — (Intransitively)
 - 36 Surly
 - 37 Guinea pig
 - 38 Le Coq —
 - 39 Students
 - 40 Fundamental
 - 41 Fill with delight
 - 43 Hit the — (top)
 - 44 Lohengrin's bride
 - 45 Of flying: prof.
 - 46 Commodity
 - 49 Shr. Fr.
 - 50 Kin of omega
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 - 3 Bond
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 - 6 Resource
 - 7 Waste away from gnet
 - 8 Alar words
 - 9 Reduces
 - 10 Another's ego
 - 11 Becomes brittle
 - 11 Moves quickly
 - 12 Sun problem
 - 13 Miami's county
 - 16 Wading bird
 - 19 Send (money)
 - 23 Counterpart
 - 24 Salad plant
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 - 30 Of warships
 - 31 Fashion
 - 32 Palm
 - 33 Agrees
 - 34 Roman salesman
 - 35 Lily
 - 36 Drinking tool
 - 37 Feat reminder
 - 38 Bolt tower
 - 39 Slaughter of battle
 - 40 Luge
 - 41 Grow weary
 - 42 Related
 - 43 Patron saint of sailors
 - 44 Caper
 - 45 Slaughter of battle
 - 46 Luge
 - 47 Grow weary
 - 48 Related
 - 49 Patron saint of sailors
 - 50 Caper
 - 51 Slaughter of battle
 - 52 Starchy root
 - 53 Grain
 - 54 In the bag

— THIS WEEK'S — HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Reality clashes with ideology. The conflict can be resolved with a sumptuous meal.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Use what you've learned recently to propel yourself out to the skinny branches. Things won't go as planned, so stay alert.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Manage your money carefully — it'll have a tendency to slip through your fingers. Try something creative; it'll turn out well.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You're sharp. You'll be up against some very tough competition. This could turn into a strong attraction, if you want.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You'll have too much work. Do it, because you'll be into a completely different project soon. You'll be tired, but happy.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Your social calendar is jammed full of activities. Race from one meeting to another. Finish overdue projects. Travel and romance are predicted.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't bother to schedule your time too closely — there'll be changes all over the place. It'll be a little easier to figure out an agenda soon.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you can't travel, at least discuss the possibilities with an attractive foreigner. Go along with an older person's suggestion and follow tradition.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Finish a project and turn it in. This means more than just a job well done — it means more money. Travel may be necessary to get to the right destination. It'll be worth the effort.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You could get into it with a person who simply won't give up. Settle the matter with a compromise.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's too much work and not enough time. Luckily, you're good at this sort of thing. Wrap up that project.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Write a sonnet to your true love. This could be the start of something big. The assignment is completion.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Nothing will be the way it was. Don't even try to get anything serious accomplished. Take on an extra job to bring in much-needed cash.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Share the load this year and you'll get farther. Manage the changes in your life wisely with the help of a smart partner.

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Bridge

Make No Mistake
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 5 4
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ A 4

WEST
♠ K 7 6 3
♥ A K J 10
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ 7

EAST
♠ A J 10 9 2
♥ 3
♦ 8
♣ Q 10 9 8 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ A K 10 4
♣ K J 5

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 3♦ 3NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣
Ultra-weak preempts are a two-edged weapon. While they might propel the auction to uncomfortable heights, they do provide a blueprint of the holding to aid the enemy in the play.

Without East's preempt, there is a reasonable chance that North-South might have reached an unmakeable four-heart contract. After a one-diamond opening bid by South and a

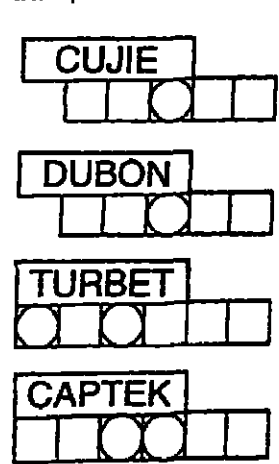
one-heart response, our choice of rebid would be a jump to two no trump to protect South's tenaces from a lead through. That would have led to the same three-no-trump game rather than four hearts, but more about the outcome since the location of the enemy cards would be unknown.

West led the king of hearts, then shifted to a club. How would you play the hand?

If the defenders are experienced players, you can claim your contract and they will concede. If not, go through the ritual. Play low from dummy and win the second trick as cheaply as possible. Cross to the ace of clubs, return to the king of diamonds, cash the remaining high club and run the diamonds. West is down to nothing but hearts and spades, and since the defender has at most three hearts, the remaining cards are spades. Simply lead a heart from dummy and, if East follows, cover with the queen. West can cash as many heart tricks as the defender holds, but then must lead a spade into your major tenace. You make nine tricks regardless of who holds the king of spades, losing at most four heart tricks.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: " " " " " "

Answer: JUICE BOUND BUTTER PACKET



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Words of Wisdom

Making friends also entails making a few enemies along the way.

...
The only person who is wiser than anyone else is that elusive "everybody."

...
Life, unfortunately, doesn't always teach us how to live.

...
If you're not afraid to think it, you shouldn't be afraid to say it.

...
In times of strife, hatred becomes respectable and prejudice becomes an admired trait.

...
Even bad taste is better than no taste at all.

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TRUE!

By Daryl Cagle



Disney chairman Michael Eisner was paid \$203,000,000 in 1993. That equals the 1993 yearly income of 9,751 average Americans.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Le Roi évoque la séparation des pouvoirs, insiste sur la voie de la paix

● Tout ce qui touche à la démocratie et à la paix dans le pays devrait être combattu, soulignait Sa Majesté le Roi Hussein lors de son discours devant le Parlement. La séparation des pouvoirs, législatif et exécutif en particulier, devrait être consolidée, précisait le Roi dans son allocution de mardi. Il faisait alors allusion à la loi norvégienne qui permettrait aux députés d'assumer des postes ministériels. Le Roi indiquait que les relations entre le cabinet ministériel et le Parlement devraient être améliorées sans être toutefois influencées par des effets négatifs comme le cumul des mandats parlementaire et ministériel. Le Roi a également critiqué « ceux qui œuvrent pour la chute du gouvernement parce qu'ils ont l'ambition de devenir ministres (dans un nouveau gouvernement). Une telle conduite est néfaste », estime Sa Majesté. Abordant le processus de paix israélo-arabe, le Roi a souhaité que la paix règne dans toute la région. « Tous nos efforts seront déployés pour atteindre la paix, insiste le Roi, on va agir contre tous ceux qui essaient de mettre des obstacles sur la voie de la paix. »



En Bref

Député ingrat

□ La mère d'un député de la chambre basse du Parlement s'est plainte que son fils l'ait expulsée de chez lui alors qu'il aurait usurpé tout l'héritage de la famille. Dans une lettre envoyée au journal hebdomadaire al Urdun, la mère du député, appelée Julia, estime que son fils ne mérite pas d'être un représentant du peuple. Elle lance une demande publique à tous ceux qui peuvent l'aider à retrouver son droit légitime à une vie digne.

Député optimiste

□ Le député centriste Nazeh Amarin a récemment déclaré que si le Parlement acceptait sa démission, les 22 députés de l'opposition devraient également démissionner. Un député islamiste a confié au Jourdain que l'opposition n'avait pas encore pris de position unanime à cet égard. Cependant, il semblait être sûr que le Parlement rejeterait la démission du député qui s'était opposé à la décision gouvernementale d'augmenter le prix du pain.

Et un député menaçant

□ Toujan Faisal, la seule femme députée de la chambre basse, a menacé de rendre public des dossiers secrets inculquant de corruption des hautes personnalités. Suite au jugement du tribunal la semaine dernière la condamnant à un emprisonnement de deux mois et à une amende de 6000 JD pour avoir insulté Samar Oran dans l'un de ses articles publiés à Shihhan, Toujan Faisal déclarait le système judiciaire jordanien comme un système corrompu et menaçait de le poursuivre en justice devant les tribunaux internationaux.

Rendez-vous avec le Roi

□ Lors d'un entretien accordé au journal al Quds al Arabi, Sa Majesté le Roi Hussein a dit qu'il entamerait une deuxième réunion avec l'opposant Leith Shbeilat. Le Roi a emmené Shbeilat de la prison Suwayja jusqu'à la maison de l'opposant. Des rapports révèlent que la discussion, qui s'est déroulée dans la voiture, a principalement porté sur des sujets nationaux. On ne connaît pas encore les détails de cette conversation mais le Roi a précisé qu'il allait à nouveau s'entretenir avec Leith Shbeilat.

Plus de journalistes prisonniers

□ Selon l'hebdomadaire islamiste al Sabeel, le ministère de l'Information ne poursuivra plus dorénavant en justice les journalistes pour des affaires de nature politique. Le nombre de ces affaires juridiques, soulevées par le ministère contre les journalistes arrêtés pendant et après les émeutes du pain. Ces manifestations se sont produites, rappellent-ils, dans le sud du pays.

Le Jourdain, on y revient
Tous les jeudis dans le Star
645380

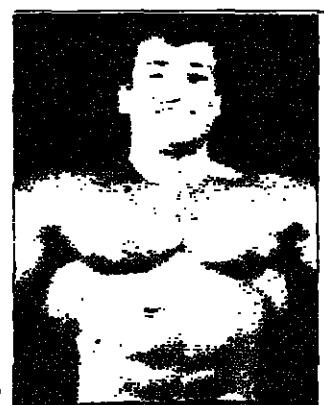
Actualité

Le Championnat du Monde de Culturisme se termine ici avec succès

Des centaines de culturistes sont arrivées en Jordanie la semaine dernière pour prendre part au Championnat Mondial de Culturisme. Bien organisé, chaleureusement accueilli, le championnat s'est terminé ici avec succès. Cependant, un désappointement jordanien a dominé lors de l'échec du champion national qui guignait une médaille.

Pour la première

fois dans l'histoire du pays, la Jordanie a accueilli la semaine dernière des délégations de culturistes de 78 pays venant parti-



Le champion jordanien Mustafa Hasanin

ciper au 50ème championnat du monde de culturisme.

Alors que la Jordanie mettait tout espoir dans son champion jordanien Mustafa Hasanin, déjà vainqueur d'une médaille de bronze lors du même championnat en 1994, elle fut déçue d'apprendre que cette année, Hasanin n'obtenait que la 12ème place.

Le seul pays arabe gagnant parmi les douze pays arabes participant au championnat était l'Égypte. Le champion égyptien, Anwar Imawi, remportait la médaille d'or dans la catégorie super léger des 65 kg.

L'équipe égyptienne a exprimé au Star son admiration quant à l'accueil chaleureux des Jordaniens. « On éprouvait les mêmes sentiments lorsqu'on était en Égypte », a déclaré le

président de la délégation égyptienne Mustafa Nouri.

Le premier Championnat du monde a eu lieu en 1947 à Philadelphie aux États-Unis. C'est en 1950 que ce sport a commencé à se répandre dans le Royaume. Le premier centre de culturisme jordanien a ouvert ses portes en 1964.

Mustafa Hasanin a gagné en 1994 la médaille de bronze (catégorie poids lourd, plus de 90 kg) dans le cadre du championnat mondial qui s'est déroulé à Shanghai.

Le ministre de la jeunesse Mohammad Daoudieh, délégué de sa Majesté le roi Hussein, a offert le drapeau du Championnat à la meilleure équipe, celle de la République tchèque qui recevra le prochain championnat.

Le Congrès Mondial de la

Fédération Internationale des Culturistes (IFBB) a conclu ses réunions ici cette semaine.

L'IFBB a présenté au Roi Hussein le premier prix et à Son Altesse Royale, le Prince Hassan, le prix d'honneur.

Cinquante juges ont pris part au processus de sélection des 36ème de finale qui comprenaient 179 champions répartis dans les six catégories suivantes: super-léger (65 kg), léger (70 kg), wélter (75 kg), moyen (80 kg), moyen-lourd (90 kg), et lourd (plus de 90 kg).

La Hongrie a dominé le championnat lorsque Jeno Kiss gagnait dans la catégorie des poids lourds. Ce pays était par conséquent qualifié pour le Championnat Olympique. La délégation jordanienne ne figurait pas dans les six catégories.

La Corée du Sud gagnait la première place pour les 70 kg.

La Turquie pour les 75 kg, l'Ukraine pour les 80, et l'Allemagne pour les 90.

Le Prince Faisal Ben Fahed, Président de l'Union Arabe des Sports, faisait un don de 50000 dollars au championnat. Ce fut l'offre la plus généreuse donnée dans l'histoire de ce tournoi.

Les tests de dépistage des athlètes eurent lieu avant la compétition et les résultats furent envoyés en Espagne aux laboratoires du Comité International Olympique. Dans l'hypothèse où une analyse contrôlerait positivement un vainqueur, la médaille lui serait alors retirée et il se retrouverait suspendu pour deux ans.

Aleen Banayan

Société

A la recherche constante de Mister BigMac

Fast-food, drapeaux et jeux: McDonald, pour les enfants et les parents aussi, est l'emblème d'un loisir 'pas cher'. Symbole de la vie américaine rapide Mcdo a été largement accueilli par les jordaniens.

Il aura fallu plus

de quarante ans à Ray KROG, fondateur du McDo en 1955, pour que la capitale jordanienne se dote du premier restaurant portant son emblème.

Le nouveau Mc est finalement arrivé chez nous pour se rendre chez McDonald. Surprise! il nous faut monter au septième... cercle et « se ruer vers l'ouest » comme on dit aux Américains. Si l'Amérique est un mythe, McDonald en est également un.

Il faut donc aller jusqu'au septième cercle de Djabal Amman, croiser pas moins d'une dizaine de panneaux publicitaires placés bien en hauteur sur le boulevard, pour arriver enfin au restaurant. Et si l'on se trompe, il nous suffit de suivre une file indienne de voitures - un kilomètre le midi, trois kilomètres le soir et cinq kilomètres la nuit du septième carrefour en direction de l'ouest... et toujours vers

l'ouest.

Placé sur plus de trois hectares, ce nouveau 'fast-food' restaurant sert ses repas rapides en double file: l'une pour les piétons, et l'autre pour les véhicules. De cette manière, tout le monde est servi comme dans n'importe quel McDonald nord-américain.

Quand on interroge les clients sur leur raison de venir et faire la ligne pendant des heures pour un repas de fast-food et lorsqu'ils daignent répondre, on découvre que ces gens-là aiment beaucoup les gamins puisqu'ils sont là uniquement pour leur faire plaisir.

Ils ne sont pas là parce qu'ils ont envie de manger le Hamburger ou parce que la vie américaine rapide les manque énormément. Ils sont venus de l'autre bout du pays simplement pour faire plaisir à leurs enfants.

Le prix est le même que l'on arrive à pied ou en voiture.

Pour quelques trois dinars jordaniens, on a le choix entre plusieurs menus: Cheeseburger, McChicken ou encore le fameux Big Mac, frites ainsi qu'une boisson: coca-cola ou milk shake.

Quant aux enfants, ils ne payent que deux dinars. Il est vrai que les plus jeunes sont gâtés chez Big Mac Brother puisqu'ils auront en bonus un ballon dessiné d'un clown qui vous invite à revenir chez McDonald. Une salle avec des jeux est à la disposition des clients et de leurs enfants. « Ça se passe comme ça chez McDonald », chante le slogan publicitaire télévisé français.

Qualité de service et qualité de propreté sont les leitmotivs de cette restauration rapide. La discrétion aussi: il est effectivement difficile de vérifier les rumeurs qui courent que l'on est pratiquement convaincu que les employés de Mister BigMac mangent dans leur propre restaurant pas loin de



l'établissement où ils travaillent.

Quant mangent-ils? Ça on n'a pas pu le découvrir. Il ne paraît pourtant pas être de 'fast-food' ou du Pizza.

Le mélange linguistique

aidant peut-être, on peut entendre par-ci par-là 'salam Ahmad', 'hello Nadia' et 'thank you', on ne sait plus qui est quoi et on oublie pour quelques instants où nous sommes.

A.N.

Découverte

Um Qais cherche son prestige d'antan

Situé tout au Nord du pays, le site d'Um Qais offre un panorama unique sur le lac de Tibériade et la vallée du Golan. Un endroit au passé très riche qui offre notamment des vestiges romains ou ottomans

A une distance de

30 kilomètres au nord-ouest d'Irbid se trouve la ville romaine d'Um Qais, qui portait jadis le nom de Gadara. Um Qais, qui date du 4ème siècle

avant J.C., a été conquise par les Romains en 63 avant J.C. Grâce à sa position stratégique, cette ville historique devint un carrefour des voies de communications dans la région.

A présent, Um Qais est un

des sites les plus fréquentés en Jordanie. Cette ville riche en Histoire a attiré des archéologues et des artistes du monde entier.

Sur place en ce moment se déroulent des travaux de recherches, de restauration, et de terrassement. Selon Omar Rushaidat, directeur du département d'antiquité à Um Qais, les travaux, qui ont commencé depuis 1974, sont conduits par le ministère du Tourisme et des Antiquités en coopération avec l'Institut protestant allemand d'archéologie.

Dans les années 80, le site d'Um Qais est devenu la propriété de l'État.

Le but de cette opération était la restauration et la sauvegarde des maisons datant de l'ère ottomane du village. En échange, les habitants de ces anciennes maisons ont été relogés, ou bien dédommages.

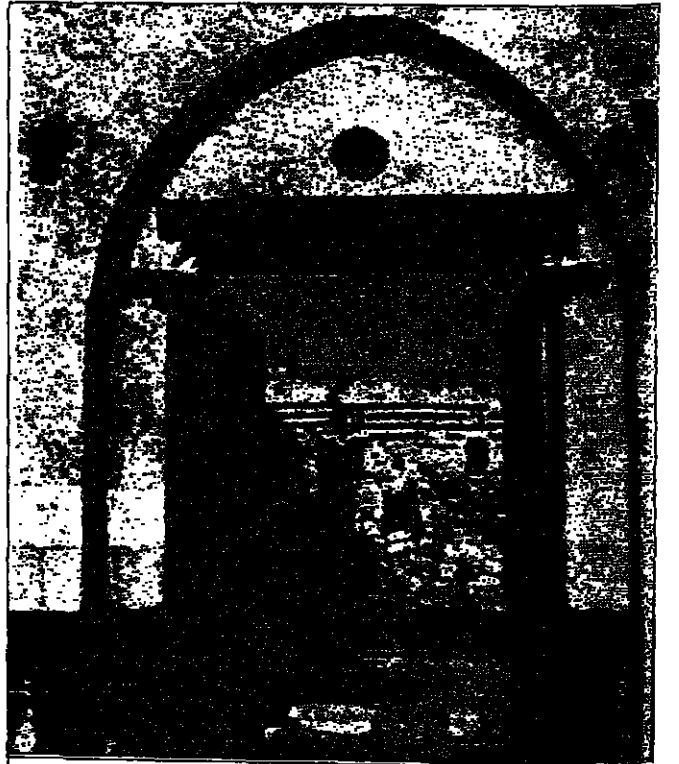
«Malheureusement, les habitants se sont mis en colère et ils ont eux même cassé les vitres de leurs maisons. Et depuis, le village et ses trésors d'architecture sont abandonnés aux voleurs », explique Ammar Khammash, architecte restaurateur qui travaille depuis longtemps sur le site. Pour lui, d'ailleurs, ce déplacement de la population destiné à favoriser le tourisme n'était pas une bonne idée. « Le mode de vie des Jordaniens étant le meilleur reflet de la culture du pays pour les touristes. »

La mission allemande qui travaille actuellement sur le site a déjà rénové trois anciennes maisons. Une a été transformée en musée, la seconde en centre d'études et la dernière sera destinée au département des Antiquités. Quant aux autres, elles

souffrent selon l'archéologue allemande Nadine Riedl, de leur état d'abandon et de la pluie.

Pour les responsables d'Um Qais, ce site présente le double avantage de posséder un important patrimoine historique et d'offrir un point de vue magnifique aux touristes sur le plateau du Golan et le lac de Tibériade. Quelques heures suffisent pour en faire le tour. Une ballade qui commence sur l'ancienne voie romaine menant vers le théâtre en basalte noir qui est un chef d'œuvre de l'architecture romaine. A côté se trouvent les vestiges d'une basilique, une place de marché, ainsi que l'ancien cimetière royal. Le musée local abrite notamment des tablettes ornées de mosaïque, des sculptures, des statues ainsi que des éléments d'architecture comme des chapiteaux ou des portes en pierres.

La ville de Gadara connaissait une importante activité culturelle. Elle porte la marque de grands poètes, philosophes ou



orateurs. « A vous qui passez ici je dis: j'étais comme vous êtes à présent et comme je suis maintenant vous serez. Amusez-vous donc dans la vie car vous allez forcément mourir ». Cette locution d'un philosophe grec est sculptée sur une pierre se trouvant actuellement dans une des salles du musée local. Le site de Gadara cache encore bien sûr de nombreuses richesses. « A mon avis, c'est à

cause de problèmes financiers qu'Um Qais ne fait toujours pas partie des sites touristiques les plus importants de Jordanie », explique le Dr. Hans Bienert, directeur de l'Institut protestant allemand d'archéologie. Avec des moyens supplémentaires, il ne fait aucun doute pourrait retrouver son prestige d'antan. »

Nahed Al-Khoulf

Activities

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------|
| Royal Cultural Centre | 6610267 | Concord Cinema | 677420 |
| American Centre Library | 820101 | Plaza Cinema | 699238 |
| British Council | 6361478 | Philadelphus Cinema | 634144 |
| French Cultural Centre | 637009 | | |
| Goethe Institute | 641993 | | |
| Turkish Cultural Centre | 610858 | | |
| Haya Arts Centre | 639777 | | |
| Y.W.C.A. | 665195 | | |
| Y.W.M.A. | 641793 | | |
| Dar al Funun | 643252 | | |
| Alia Art Gallery | 639301 | | |
| Aladna Art Gallery | 657132 | | |
| Nabil Al Mashini Theatre | 675571 | | |
| Nabil & Hasham's Theatre | 625155 | | |

Diplomatic Corps

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Algerian | 6412712 |
| Australian | 6732467 |
| Austrian | 644635 |
| Bahraini | 6641489 |
| Brazilian | 642183 |
| Bulgarian | 675683 |
| Canadian | 666124 |
| Chilean | 823360 |
| Cyprus Honorary Cons | 677559 |
| Czech | 671813/666135 |
| Danish Consulate Gen | 601703 |
| Finnish Consulate | 824634/824676 |
| French | 6412734 |
| German | 689351 |
| Greek | 6713312 |
| Hungarian | 615614 |
| Icelandic Consulate | 698851 |
| Indian | 637262 |
| Indonesian | 828911 |
| Irani | 639331 |
| Italian | 638185 |
| Japanese | 6724867 |
| Kuwaiti | 6751358 |
| Libyan | 6951013 |
| Lebanese | 641381 |
| Moroccan | 641451 |
| Netherlands | 637967/625165 |
| New Zealand Consulate | 626720 |
| North Korean | 666349 |
| Norwegian Embassy | 6449324 |
| Omani | 686155 |
| Pakistani | 622787 |
| Palestine | 677517 |
| People's Rep. of China | 666139 |
| Philippines | 645161 |
| Polish | 637153 |
| Qatari | 682666 |
| Romanian | 667738 |
| Russian | 641158 |
| Saudi Arabian | 8141546 |
| Slovenia Honorary Cons | 861542 |
| Sri Lanka | 683905/704960 |
| South Korean | 6607456 |
| South Africa | 811194 |
| Spanish | 6141669 |
| Sudanese | 6442512 |
| Swedish | 6691779 |
| Swiss | 6864167 |
| Syrian | 641076 |
| Taiwan | 671530 |
| Tunisian | 6743078 |
| Turkish | 641251 |
| U.A.E. | 643347/643341 |
| United Kingdom | 823100 |
| United States | 820101 |
| Yemen | 642381 |
| EEC Delegation | 668191 |
| ESCWA | 6943518 |
| ICRC | 688645 |
| UNDP/WFP | 6681717 |
| UNRWA | 607398 |
| UNICEF | 629571 |
| UNESCO | 606559 |

Airlines

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Adria Airways | 667029 |
| Aeroflot | 641510 |
| Aeromexico | 694802 |
| Air Canada | 630879 |
| Air France | 666055/667824 |
| Air India | 688301/2 |
| Air Lanka | 682140 |
| Alitalia | 625203 |
| Alyemda (Air yemen) | 653691 |
| American Airlines | 669068 |
| Arab Wings | 894484 |
| Austrian Airlines | 693845/694604 |
| Balkan Airlines | 665909 |
| British Midland | 694802 |
| British Airways | 828801 |
| Cathay Pacific | 628596 |
| China Airlines | 636232 |
| Cyprus Airways | 667028 |
| Delta Air Lines | 643661 |
| Egypt Air | 636011 |
| Emirates Airlines | 643341 |
| Gulf Air | 653613 |
| Hungarian Airlines | 622275 |
| Iberia | 637827/644036 |
| Iran Air | 622826 |
| Japan Air Lines | 630879 |
| KLM | 622175 |
| Korean Airlines | 676624/662236 |
| Libyan Arab Airlines | 643831/2 |
| Lufthansa | 601744 |
| Malaysian Airline | 639575/653446 |
| MEA | 636104 |
| Olympic | 630125/638433 |
| Philippine Airlines | 640200 |
| PIA | 625981 |
| Polish Airlines | 625981 |
| Qantas | 862288 |
| Royal Jordanian | 678321 |
| Saudia | 639333 |
| Scandinavian Airlines | 604499 |
| Singapore Airlines | 676177 |
| Sudan Airlines | 694501 |
| Swiss Air (G.S.A.) | 659791/641906 |
| Syrian Air | 622147 |
| United Airlines | 641959 |
| USAir | 694801/2 |
| TAROM - Romanian | 637380 |
| Thai Airways | 637195 |
| Trans World Airline | 623430 |
| Turkish Airlines | 629102 |
| Yemenia Airways | 628175 |
| Queen Alia Airport | (08) 53200 |
| RJ Flight Info | (08) 53200 |

Aqaba Hotels

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Al-Cazar | 314131 |
| Aqaba | 314091 |
| Aqaba Gulf Hotel | 316636 |
| Aquamarina I | 316250 |
| Coral Beach | 313521 |
| Holiday Inn I | 312426 |
| Miramar | 314340 |

Important Numbers

Emergencies

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Police | 1926/21111 |
| Civil Defence H.Q. | 193198/199 |
| Fire Brigade | 622094/93 |
| Ambulance | 199 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Traffic Police | 625943/639703 |
| Traffic Accidents | 897467/8 |
| Highway Police | 787111 |

Hospitals

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Alekh Maternity | 642441/2 |
| Al-Ahli, Ashlah | 664164/6 |
| Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh | 775111/2/6 |
| Al-Muasher Hospital | 667227/9 |
| Amal Hospital | 674155 |
| Army, Marka | 891611/15 |
| Hussein Medical Centre | 813813 |
| Italian-Al-Mohajeen | 777101/3 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 642362 |
| Khaled Maternity | 644281/6 |
| Mahbas, J. Amman | 636141 |
| Palestine, Shmeisani | 664171/4 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 602240/50 |
| Shmeisani Hospital | 607431 |
| The Islamic, Ashlah | 660127/7 |
| University Hospital | 845845 |

General

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Amman Municipality | 843402 |
| Electricity Complaints | 121 |
| Prices complaints | 666181 |
| Hotel complaints | 0853200 |
| Sewerage Complaints | 896390 |
| Water Complaints | 656390/91 |
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| Amman Greater Municipality | 636111 | Municipalities & Environment | 641393 |
| Agriculture | 686151 | Parliamentary Affairs | 641211 |
| Aviation & Islamic Affairs | 666141 | Planning | 644466 |
| Culture / Jabal Amman | 636391 | Post & Communications | 624301 |
| Education & Higher Education | 669181 | Public Health & Housing | 665131 |
| Energy & Mineral Resources | 815615 | Public Works & Housing | 668481 |
| Finance | 636321 | Social Development | 673191 |
| Foreign Affairs | 644361 | Supplies | 602121 |
| Industry & Trade | 663191 | Tourism & Antiquities | 642311 |
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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

The potential for Internet domain name disputes in Jordan:

Internet's growing pains

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

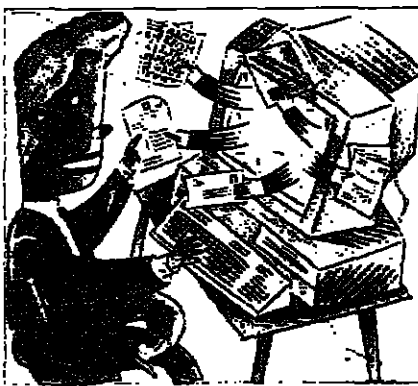
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY may have rendered many old things as obsolete, as it replaced their utility. However, it seems that the age-old art of litigation and the equally old profession of law have not only survived the onslaught of new technology but—on the contrary—prospered from it.

With the Internet becoming increasingly popular amongst commercial corporations, the quest for gaining domain addresses has also spiraled upwards. Domain addresses allow any institute to get its specific and distinct presence on the Internet (for its email and Web addresses) and are obtained by reserving them from the different bodies in charge of registering domain names such as the NIC in Jordan and Network Solutions Inc. (NSI) in the US. For instance, by March 1996 the Network Solutions Inc. has registered more than 315,000 domain names in the US.

With more companies requesting domain names, the issue of duplication and disputes on the rightful ownership of domain address and their respective trade marks was a sad consequence—sad, except for the lawyers maybe! When companies request a domain name for their business on the Internet, they are basically extending the trademarks or commercial names they own to the Internet with their legal complications.

Trademarks (concerned with products and services) and commercial names (names of

the companies themselves) are registered in Jordan through a simple application in the Ministry of Trade and Industry within a week's time. With the



National Information Center (NIC) being delegated the ultimate responsibility for registering domain names under the "Jo" domain. It gets directly involved in any dispute over a trade mark or a commercial name in Jordan.

With this in mind, a look at the situation in the Internet's old world (a.k.a. the United States) may be beneficial in preparing for the unexpected in Jordan. At first the NSI in the US reserved the right to put "on hold" any domain name—even if it is actively used—should it be disputed by other parties on the grounds of trademark infringement or "likelihood of confusion" with an established trade mark. While this initial policy was designed to avoid trade mark violations, it also meant that the NSI would be "dragged to court" by parties whose domain addresses were put on hold pending a court's ruling. With a thorny streak of litigation

cases against it, the NSI recently decided to refrain from putting on hold any disputed domain name and gave ultimate responsibility of deciding on and resolving domain disputes to the US courts. This policy delegated all the problematic issues to the legal system and relieved the NSI from the complexities of litigation.

The policy statement of the NIC here in Jordan regarding domain name registration, trade marks and commercial names stipulates that official documents of trade mark registration are needed to register a domain name. The policy further adds, that the NIC "will register the names on a 'first come first served' basis" and that "it will not attempt to provide direct solution for preventing or resolving the domain name or trademark conflicts." The policy doesn't state whether a disputed domain address would be placed on hold in case of a legal dispute over it. Furthermore, it does not clearly state whether the NIC forfeits its right as the ultimate authority for registration under the "Jo" top level domain (TLD)—which is not subject to judicial review—and gives the responsibility of domain name disputes to the Jordanian courts. Within the Jordanian legal system, the court that hears disputes of trademark and commercial names is the Higher Court of Justice.

With this in mind, it would be safe to say that as more domain names get registered under the "Jo" TLD the Higher Court of Justice may see its work load increase. Whether

Arabia.On.Line launches Jordan.On.Line at METS '96

ARABIA.ON.Line, the leading Arab network on the Internet, will be launching a host of new services designed to specifically cater for the needs of the Jordanian market. Include Jordan.On.Line, a database and real-estate network and the first Arab Art Online network. Jordan.On.Line will be launched as a member of the Arabia.On.Line network of Arab countries, which already includes operational sites like Emirates, On.Line.

Jordan.On.Line is basically an Internet-based online service that continues complete and comprehensive material pertaining to Jordan. For the basic layout of the site, Jordan.On.Line retains the famous Arabia.On.Line easy to navigate user interface.

When Jordan.On.Line is accessed, users will see that the vertical portion of the screen contains buttons juxtaposed one under another. These are labeled news, business, culture, art, computing... etc. In the middle of the screen are the best culture, business and news headlines extracted from content providers hosted by Jordan.On.Line. To the left portion of the screen, users will find a list of many Arab countries online, some already operational, such as Emirates, On.Line, and some to come

shortly. The inside sections, say news or business, contain exclusive productions designed and programmed by



the Jordan.On.Line team, the same team that designed the world famous Arabia.On.Line and Emirates.On.Line networks. Furthermore, links from the Internet, collected, classified and reviewed by Jordan.On.Line's editorial team, are provided for users seeking further information related to Jordan on the Internet. On the bottom of each section is a forum or chat button that leads to a zone which brings users together to exchange opinions on any topics they deem of importance. Since Arabia.On.Line's regional office is located in Amman, Jordan.On.Line already includes some of the most popular Arab sites on the Internet, like AD Dussour online, Quds Press, The Star and Jordan Today. In its portfolio of exclusive Jordanian clients, Jordan.On.Line boasts the Arab Bank and Baladna

Art Gallery among others. With the launch of Jordan.On.Line, Arabia.On.Line hopes to provide more focused marketing opportunities for its clients in Jordan. A bank, for example, will be able to target the Jordanian and international business communities through the Business section of the Jordan.On.Line, therefore avoiding excessive expenditure on advertising that may or may not reach the targeted group.

Two database and real-estate network: The database consists of a detailed and comprehensive directory of businesses around the whole world in all fields, such as advertising, banking, gas and oil, industry and finance. Users can enter their own requirements for a search like the name of a certain company or, if that is not available, key words. A search will then be conducted to give the user full international on the company that is sought.

Baladna Art Gallery, first Arab Art Gallery online The Arab art network was designed to provide Arab art comprehensive coverage bearing in mind that Arab art has received little attention on an international scale. The new network takes advantage of technological advances to give Arab artists the attention they deserve.

News update

Wireless Internet service from Palnet

Palnet, the Internet Service Provider in Palestine, has become the first company to offer a wireless Internet net-

work in the Middle East. The network provides an impressive data transfer rate of 1Megabit per second, that is 100 times the speed of conventional modems. Subscription fees to the Palnet wireless Internet service are \$500. For more information, contact Mr Ma'in Bseison at Palnet on telephone 972 2 5835666.

Apple reveals future plans

Mr Marco Landi, a senior Apple executive, has revealed Apple's plans within the coming year. Apple plans to provide servers that can perform under multiple platforms including Mac OS, Windows NT and AIX.

Also, product releases are on the way with a new PowerBook arriving this month. Perform systems with an embedded DOS system arriving in the second part of 1997. These will include 166MHz

European Information Technology Conference '96 (EITC)

UNDER THE slogan of 'Doing Business in the Information Society', the European IT Conference 1996 is to be held in Brussels, Belgium, between 25-27 November, 1996. Over 1,500 participants are expected to attend from industry, research organizations, national administrations and the European Union's institutions. Also, there will be an exhibition running alongside the conference, which will feature company-centered stands that present leading edge technology and products. For more information on EITC '96, check out the conference home-page at address <http://www.cordis.lu/esprit/sre/eitc96.htm>. The Star will attend EITC '96 and will be providing comprehensive reporting on it in the coming weeks.

Breaking the record in land speed at Al Jafr

By Manal Omar
Special to The Star

SINCE THE arrival of the Supersonic Car in Amman, Jordanians join the international community as they hold their breath for the SSC Thrust team to break the world record in land speed. After much research, Al Jafr desert was decided as the final location for the attempt to break the world record established in 1983 by Richard Noble in Nevada, of 1019.44 kilometers per hour. The jet-powered car, designed to be the first land based vehicle to travel faster than sound, will be driven by British Air force officer Andy Green. The team announced that the plan to make the first run would be held on 12 November. Due to the wind-free conditions, the team found that date to be ideal for the first attempt.

The first run started from the north end, and started off as a "low" speed run around 200 to 250 mph. With the success of the first run, the second run was increased to a higher speed, nearly double to between 400 to 450 mph. Eventually, if everything runs as planned, the increases in speed will lead to the new

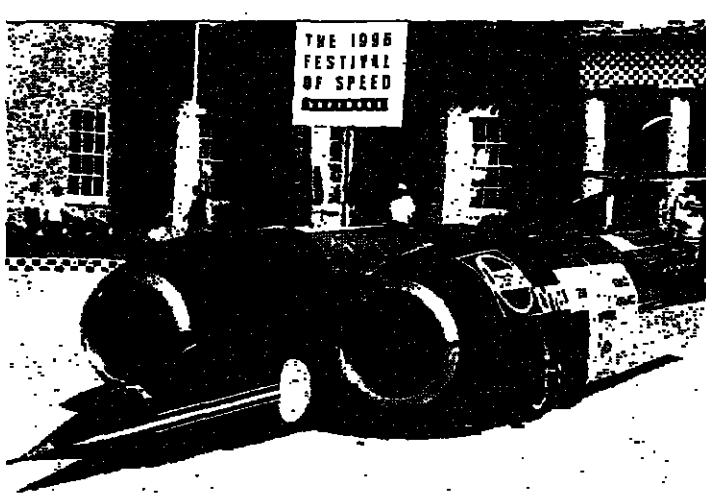
world record. The runs are taking place in Al Jafr on the desert access road which is marked from highway five from Ma'an.

Both Jordanian officials and the SSC Thrust team are eager to break the record. Added pressure has been applied as a result of the American team who is targeting the same goal. The American team also had the advantage of a

head start over the British lead SSC Thrust team. Nonetheless, Andrew Nobel, head of the SSC Thrust team's public relations, is confident that the advantages of Al Jafr desert will push their team to the top.

The runs are a potential historical event, providing both

the SSC car and Al Jafr desert the opportunity to be recorded in sports history. As a result, the runs are being open to the public. People who are planning to come are urged to arrive before 6:30 am. Royal Wings has organized a special package tour, which includes via Marka Airport, a round-trip flight to Al Jafr, continental breakfast, and close-up photo opportunities and briefings. People are strongly advised to bring with them water bottles, comfortable walking shoes, food, and shades.



Middleweights Leonard, Camacho ready for another round

By Karl Hente
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—With his competitive fire rekindled, Sugar Ray Leonard has returned to boxing. With the opportunity to beat the man he says he has most wanted to be throughout his career, Hector "Macho" Camacho is ready to send Leonard back into the retirement.

The two middleweights were in town Monday morning to promote their February bout at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Camacho (63-3-1, 31 knockouts) currently holds the Inter-Continental Boxing Council

title. But that belt is not what this comeback fight is about for Leonard, who is 40 years old.

"I'm happy to say I'm 40," said Leonard, who is 36-2-1 as a professional, but has not fought since being knocked out by Terry Norris on Feb. 9, 1991. "I'm not 20 anymore, and I don't want to go back to that. I'm a grandfather now. This fight is for the baby boomers."

Camacho, meanwhile, has produced a wild card for this bout between the two five-time world champions. Jose "Pepe" Correa, Leonard's longtime trainer, has signed to train the 34-year-old Camacho. Leonard was surprised when he learned about

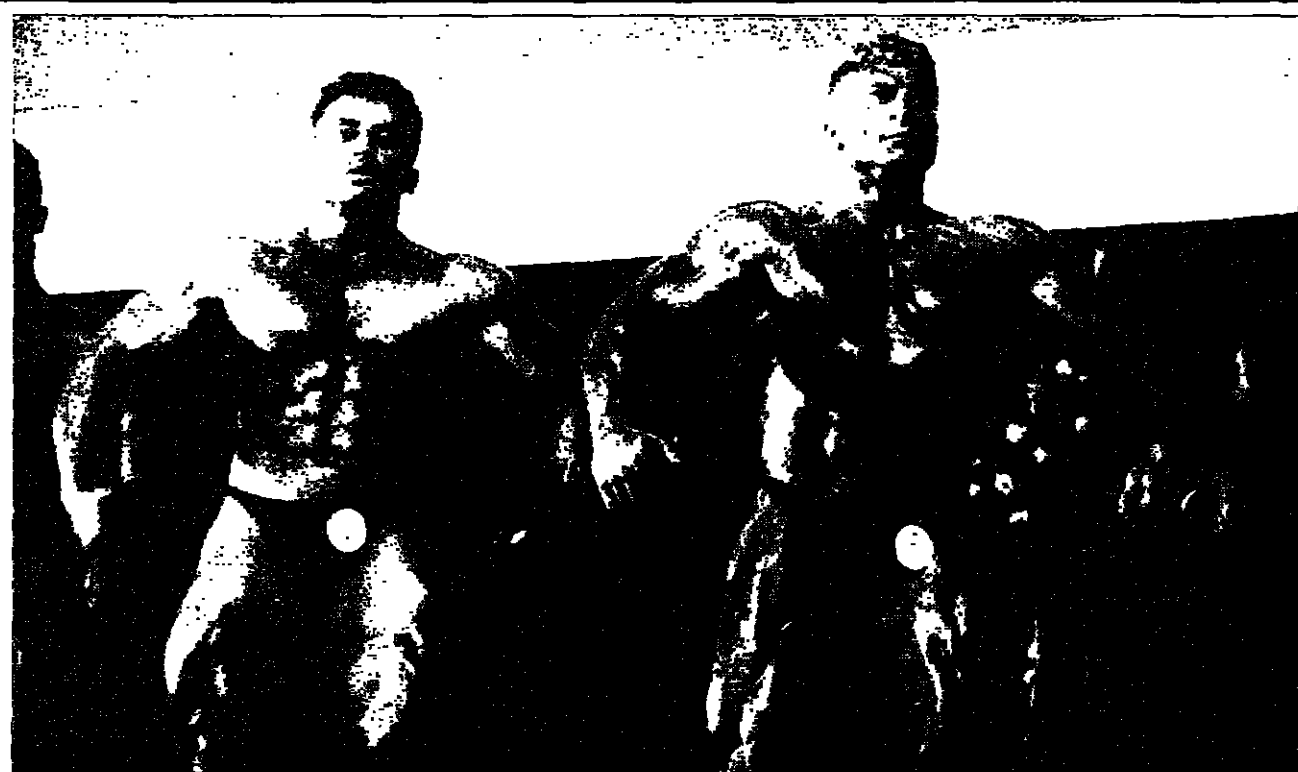
Correa's involvement from reporters Monday.

"It's a plus for Camacho's camp," said Leonard, who will work with veteran trainer Adrian Davis. "He knows my style. I just hope he gets confused that day."

Said Correa: "I know how to beat Ray Leonard. Ray knows I know that. This is business, I'm not mad at him. Ray is a fighter as long as he wants to fight. I'd be the wrong guy to suggest that he quit. But I think he's biting off more than he can chew."

Whereas Leonard was cool and collected as usual Monday, Camacho entered the room with a loud pronouncement—"The champ is here!"—and wore a huge gold and diamond-encrusted necklace with the word "Macho" around his neck.

Camacho, who already has fought six times in 1996, including a narrow decision over Roberto Duran in June for the IBC title, Camacho served notice he will not back down against Leonard. "I'm not talking like I'm pretending I'm going to beat him," Camacho said. "I know I'm going to beat him. I know I'm going to be painted as the villain, the bad boy, against the all-American boy."



● Jordan was the host of the 50th World Bodybuilding Championship which took place between 14-15 November. The number of the participating Arab and foreign countries was 78. The event was organized by the Jordanian Bodybuilding Federation under the patronage of HM King Hussein. The Hungarian champion Jeno Kiss won in the Heavy Weight category. Other results went as follows: The Bamam Weight was won by the Egyptian Anwar Al Anawi, Light Weight by the South Korean, Han Dong Ki, Welter Weight by the Turkish Erugrul Gulcan, Middle Weight by the Ukrainian Oleg Zhure, Middle Heavy Weight by the German Thomas Scheu. The Jordanian team won the "show contest" held during the event.

International Soccer News

Summit held on Italian national team

ROME—Top Italian soccer officials held a summit meeting on Tuesday on the state of the national team that was certain to fuel speculation of an early departure for coach Arrigo Sacchi after a string of disappointments. The national federation said Sacchi, federation commissioner Raffaele Pagnozzi and League chairman Luciano Nizzola had met in Milan to discuss "the present situation of our national team."

The brief statement said the talks had been previously scheduled in the run-up to a forthcoming meeting of Italian soccer's top governing organ, the Federal Council.

It will convene after an election on 14 December that is expected to name Nizzola as the new chairman of the federation.

"Other possible meetings will follow in the coming weeks to develop any issues considered necessary," the statement said.

It made no reference to Sacchi's job

though the meeting was bound to renew scrutiny of his chances of staying on.

Calls for Sacchi's removal, growing since Italy's first round exit from the European championships in England last summer, reached fever pitch this month after the team lost 2-1 to Bosnia in a friendly in Sarajevo.

Italy faces a crunch World Cup qualifier tie against England next February and Nizzola has refused to say whether Sacchi, whose contract does not expire until 1998, will be in charge.

FIFA threatens Uruguay with sanctions

ZURICH—The Uruguay Football Association has been threatened with severe sanctions after seven players were booked in a match against Chile, FIFA, world soccer's governing body said on Tuesday.

FIFA's disciplinary committee informed the Uruguay association in a letter that any re-occurrence of the

rough play seen in the World Cup qualifying match last Tuesday would attract sanctions.

Contrary to reports, FIFA did not stipulate what form the sanctions might take.

Carlos Maresca, president of the UFA, said in a letter: "We had a meeting with the players pointing out our concerns. We will take into account such behavior in future nominations to the squad."

Juventus signs Portuguese defender

TURIN—European soccer champion Juventus of Turin signed Portuguese defender Manuel Marques Teixeira Dimas on Monday and may use him in the Intercontinental Cup final against River Plate on 26 November at Tokyo.

Dimas, 27, had been playing for Benfica of Lisbon, but his rights were sent to Juventus of a \$1 million transfer fee. He agreed to a three-year contract with the Italian team.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Reflecting on METS '96

WELL, NOW that the Middle East Technology Show (METS) '96 is behind us, it is worth reflecting on whether or not the show was a success and to look at some of the impressive technologies exhibited, especially those developed locally.

First, regarding the show's success, most companies agree that METS '96 lived up to their "reasonable expectations." It is the biggest computer and information technology show in the country. Its number of visitors is said to have exceeded 15,000, throughout its four days.

Now, on whether or not this spells success for the show, there are varied opinions. Some companies I talked to said that many of the visitors were "browsers" (which ironically fits the Internet theme of the event). On the other hand, some companies stated that METS '96 is a business opportunity that they wouldn't miss. Companies which offered on-line services were pleased to have sold a respectable number of subscriptions at the show. Also, vendors of well-priced items were pleased to announce impressive sales at the show. A number of companies were offering modems and printers, among other peripherals, which seemed to sell quite well throughout the show.

Apparently, METS '96 took the Jordanian public one more step in the direction of "Shop-on-the-spot," which was the goal behind the creation of a "Shopper's Area" at METS '96. However, it is important to note a general feeling that the "Shopper's Area" was below expectations, and that it needs to be totally re-introduced next time. "It was too much to the back and the company stands in the Shopper's Area hardly looked appealing," stated a visitor.

Moving onto the technologies on show which raised the eyebrows of "expert" and trade visitors, there were, of course, the usual advances in computing power, personal digital assistant technologies, and software. However, these are "imported" technologies. Home grown innovations were mostly software developments, including specialized applications. The ImageLink software, developed by Computer & Engineering Bureau (CEB), was one of those innovations. It allows database operators to link any image to any record with the click of a button. It is such a flexible piece of software, which is even Arabized, offering easy-to-use, pull-down menus. Other impressive products included the suite of off-the-shelf packages from IdealSoft on show. Al Muhasib Al Mithali, in particular, stands out as one of the most complete accounting and financial administration packages in the Arab World. With new modules, it represents a comprehensive system. The package is meeting with much success in the Gulf markets. Another excellent piece of software that is faring well in the Gulf is Alef wordprocessor from Zeine Technological Applications. This is a unique Arabic/English wordprocessor for Apple Macintosh. It is leading the market in its category region-wide.

There were many Jordanian developers not showing their "wares" at METS '96, though. It's interesting to note that Jordanian developers and innovators are beginning to shine regionally, especially with better marketing practices that are pushing the Jordanian-developed products more into the limelight. This is being achieved by participation in leading regional events, like the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX) held in Dubai.

Well, one thing is for sure, the "major" exhibition season in Jordan is out for this year. Looking towards the exhibitions of 1997, you can expect to see a bigger American Computer Show next year, in February 1997, which may come close to METS in terms of the number of participants. Of course, the Jordan Computer Society (JCS) will forge ahead with METS '97.

The celebration of the Jordanian information technology market came to a close last week, and from the looks of it, we are doing fine. Let's hope the country attracts more investments, possibly positioning Jordan as one of the hot-beds for information technology in the region. ■